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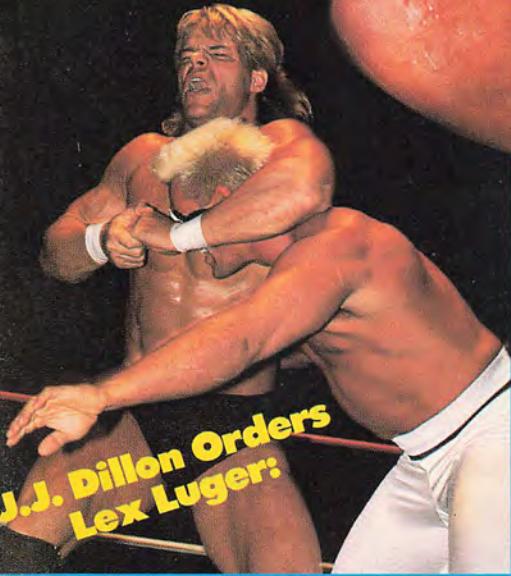
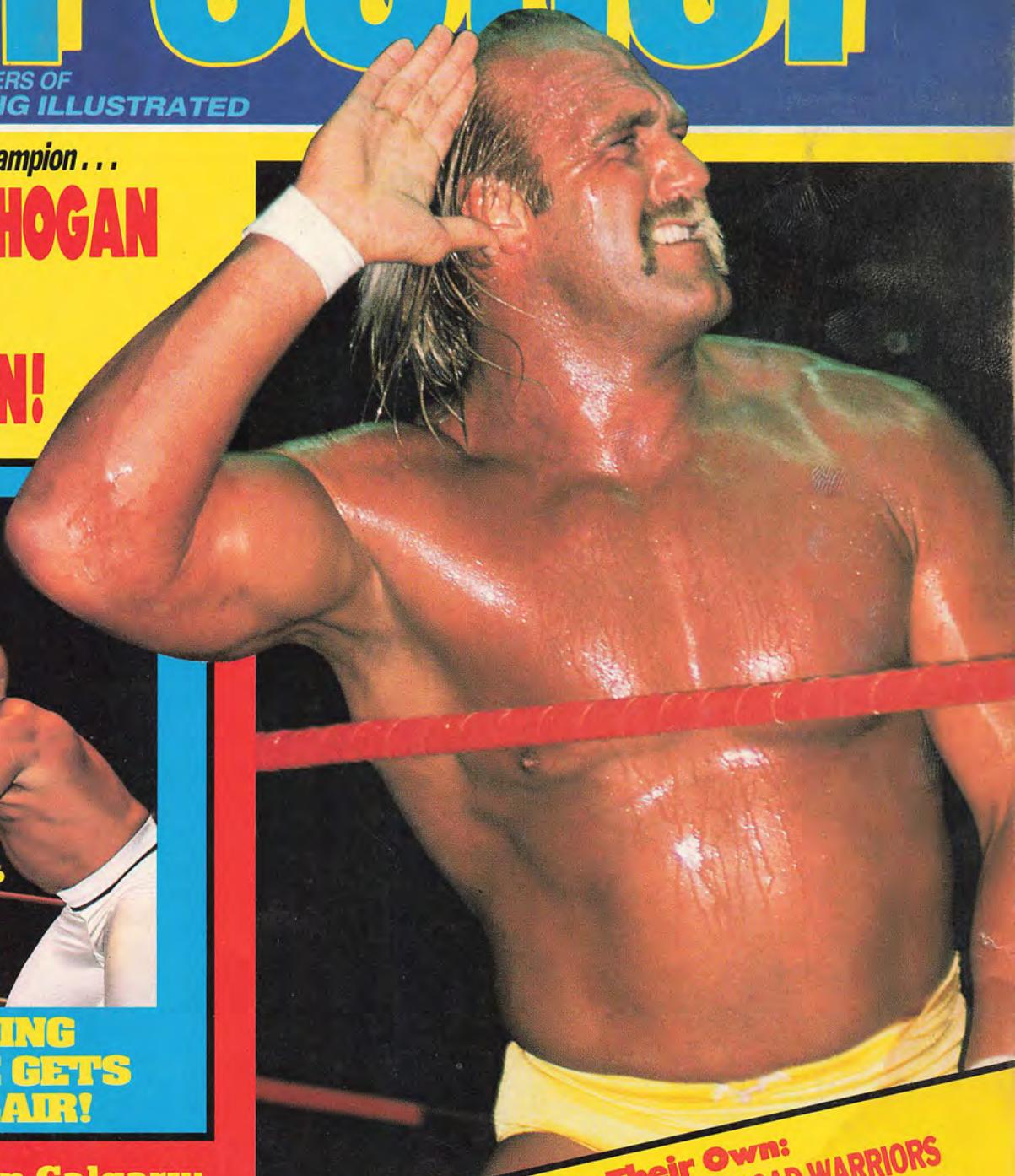
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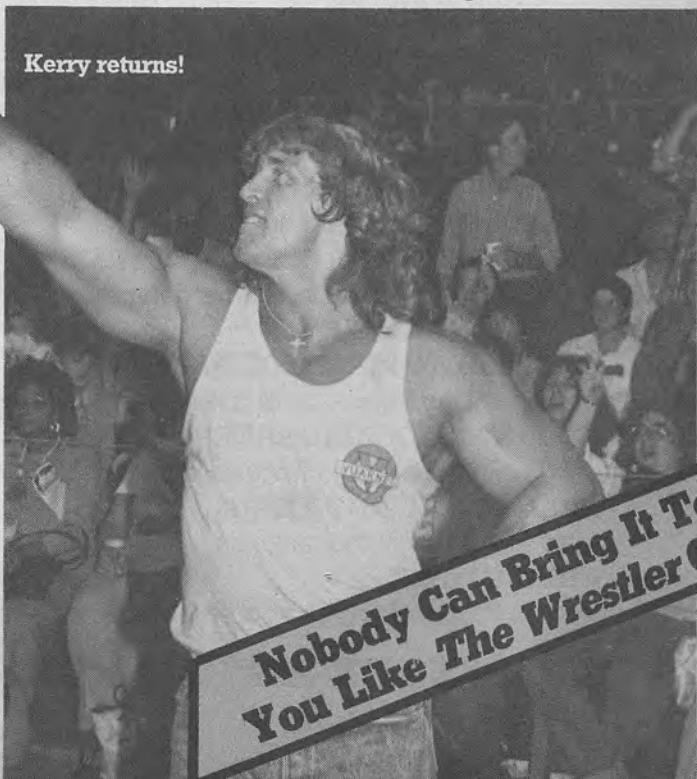
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Wrestler

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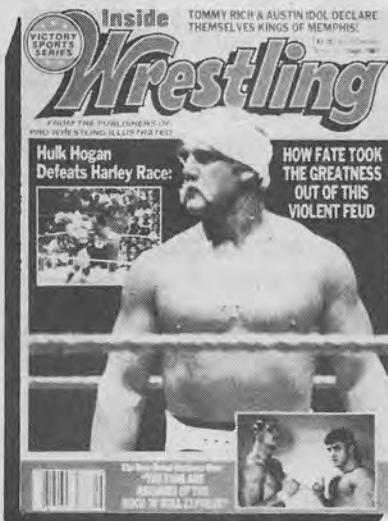
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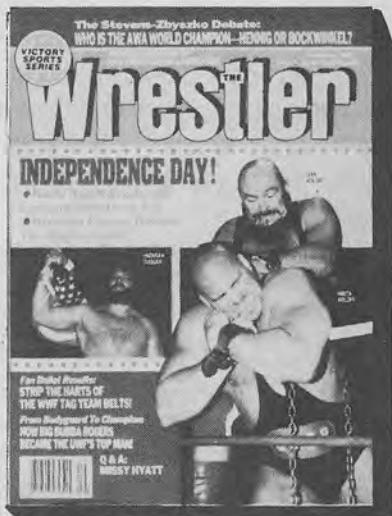
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YOUR LETTERS

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WHO DESERVES WHAT?

I have followed wrestling for a few years now and an item in your magazine has finally prompted me to state my opinion. I am sick and tired of the fans, and especially the writers of your magazine, putting down The Four Horsemen.

In the November 1987 installment of "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," Lex Luger was given a "thumbs down" for being a member of the Horsemen and for using a chair to defeat Nikita Koloff for the U.S. championship. The next month, in the December installment, I saw that Nikita was given a "thumbs up" for defeating Tully Blanchard for the NWA TV title. What was *not* mentioned in the item was the fact that Nikita used a foreign object to knock out Tully before the pin!

I can find absolutely no sense in the reasons used to criticize one man and praise the other when both clearly had outside help in obtaining their title belts. Lex is criticized because he is associated with the three greatest wrestlers and the greatest manager in the world today. That's pretty stupid when you consider that his friends are the former NWA World heavyweight champion and the longest-reigning NWA TV champion, that Tully and Arn Anderson are the NWA



If Nikita Koloff deserves a "thumbs up," then so does Lex Luger, writes Christian Watts, who thinks there's no sense in criticizing one man while praising the other.

World tag team champions, and that the Horsemen helped Lex obtain his belt. If Lex had stayed friends with Barry Windham, he would have become a friend of Nikita's and never would have fought him for the U.S. title.

Nikita is praised for winning a title so soon after his loss to Lex and for being a friend of the rulebreaking fan

favorite Dusty Rhodes. This too is stupid, since Rhodes is a loud, obnoxious idiot who can't speak properly, holds no titles, and interferes as much as the Horsemen.

Also, Nikita never should have been awarded the TV belt. First, because Windham interfered in the match, and second, because Nikita used a foreign object. If Nikita is such a great wrestler, why did he resort to illegal tactics instead of relying on his talents?

CHRISTIAN WATTS
Scarborough, Ontario

RIDING THE WAVE

I am responding to the cover story in the December 1987 issue ("Rude! Bigelow! Gang! DiBiase! Hulk Hogan: Will He Be Drowned By The New Wave Of Challengers?"). Those challengers seem to be slow in forming your predicted four-on-one attack. Hulk's taking care of OMG, and the others are slowly establishing themselves.

Bam Bam Bigelow is feuding with OMG. If Bigelow knocks Gang out of the number-one contender spot, he'll probably turn against Hogan after The Survivor Series. Finally, the Hogan-Bigelow feud will be on. The possibilities will be infinite.

Rick Rude is feuding with Paul
(Continued on page 60)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

RIC FLAIR WON his fifth NWA World heavyweight championship by defeating **Ronnie Garvin** at Starrcade '87 on Thanksgiving Day in Chicago.

Flair, who lost the belt to Garvin on September 25, told reporters after the match: "Those two months without the belt were the hardest of my life, but it's never gonna happen again. You're looking at the man who's gonna retire as World champion. This fifth time around is my chance to prove to everyone that 'The Nature Boy' is the greatest wrestler of all time."

Complete details of the match, and all Starrcade results, will appear in the April 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

Former NWA World champion **Kerry Von Erich** made his long-awaited return to the ring six days ahead of schedule. Kerry was supposed to come back against **Brian Adias** on Thanksgiving, but teamed with his brother **Kevin** against Adias and **The Iron Sheik** on November 21 at The Sportatorium in Hollywood, Florida. The match ended with a four-way brawl as Kevin dropkicked Sheik and Kerry pinned Adias.

"I felt great," said Kerry after the



"Stylin' and profilin'" once again, Ric Flair relaxes in his limousine after regaining the NWA World championship for the fourth time at Starrcade. Flair defeated Ronnie Garvin, who had won the belt two months earlier.

match. "Everybody said I would never come back from the accident, but the ankle feels fine. All I can say is I'm back! It took a long time, but it was worth it. And now that I have a tag match under my belt, I'm ready for some singles action. First I'll take care of **The Thing**, then Adias, and then **Al Perez** is in big trouble!"

Earlier in the day in nearby Penbrooke Pines, Mayor **Charles Flanagan** presented Kerry and Kevin with the keys to the city for their fine work against drugs. Also on the card, part of the "Von Erichs Over America" tour, Perez successfully defended his World Class heavyweight title by defeat-

(Continued on page 56)



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Evansville, IN (Correspondent—David Miller): The main event was a grudge match pitting Jerry "The King" Lawler against Steve Keirn. Keirn viciously attacked Lawler before the bell and used anything and everything—including fists and chairs!—to his advantage.

Just as Lawler started to turn things around, Hector Guerrero came to ringside with a chain and he and Keirn brutalized Lawler. Lawler's tag team partner, "Superstar" Bill Dundee, came to help out, but the Keirn and Guerrero attacked him also and left both Lawler and Dundee lying helpless in the ring.

In other bouts: Jerry Lawler & Bill Dundee beat Hector Guerrero & Dr. D ... Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis beat The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs by disqualification ... The Midnight Rockers defeated Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka ... The Nasty Boys wrestled "Cowboy" Don Bass & "King" Carl Fergie to a draw.

Norfolk, VA (Correspondent—Jennifer Urcan): In the main event, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson defended the NWA World tag team title against former champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a cage. Rick Morton came to the ring with his arm in a sling as his shoulder injury at the



Arn Anderson prepares to run Rick Morton's head into the cage as Tully Blanchard shouts encouragement. Tully and Arn successfully defended their NWA World tag team belts against The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Norfolk, Virginia.

hands of Arn and Tully had not yet healed.

Robert Gibson and Arn started off. Gibson held the advantage until he was double-teamed, but he refused to tag out to a willing Morton. Arn continued his assault on Gibson and almost pinned him when he delivered a perfectly executed spinebuster, but Robert managed to kick out. As he did, he fell back into his own corner, where Rick tagged in. As the crowd went wild, Morton handled both Arn and Tully until he was

thrown into the cage shoulder first. Tully then covered Morton for the pin.

In other bouts: Mike Rotundo defeated The Warlord ... Kevin Sullivan defeated Samurai Warrior I ... Samurai Warrior II pinned Kendall Windham ... Lazor-Tron defeated Basher of The M.O.D. Squad ... The New Breed beat The Midnight Express by disqualification ... Lex Luger beat Barry Windham.

Knoxville, TN (Correspondent—Derrick Goodman): With the Continental title as the prize, 17 wrestlers met at the Civic Coliseum in a one-night tournament to fill the vacant championship.

In the opening round, Nightmare Dan Davis used a small package to pin Mike Golden; Tracy Smothers delivered a flying bodypress to eliminate Jason; and Steve Armstrong advanced by forfeit when his scheduled opponent, The Black Assassin, failed to show. Also in the first round, Scott Armstrong and Larry Hamilton wrestled to a draw; the referee allowed the winner to be determined by the fans, who chose Armstrong to advance.

The Dirty White Boy and The Bullet were both eliminated after a double-disqualification decision. With Mike Golden holding his

(Continued on page 64)

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Q: "My question is for Missy Hyatt: I am a very big fan of yours. I watch you all the time on The Wrestling Network. Are you going to host WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling* again? I also would like to know your plans for the future."—Dale Snead, Laurinburg, NC

A: "Well, Dale," Missy replied, "I just had so much fun over there last time that I'm sure they'll be smart enough to invite me back. I mean, I'm such an asset to that show, a lot better than that stuffy old Tony Schiavone. I also say the things that he and David Crockett are afraid to, don't you think? As for the future, you know what they say, the sky's the limit for a girl of my talents. I can do anything I want to."

Q: "My question is for Rick Morton: Do you feel that Robert Gibson did the right thing when he tried to defend the NWA World tag team title solo and, as a result of that and your shoulder injury, gave up

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the match and the title by submission?"—Terri Chadwick, Virginia Beach, VA

A: "Terri, I know that my man Robert had to make one of the toughest decisions in his life that night," Morton said. "All he was thinking about at that moment was my well-being. He knew we could get the title back, but he also realized that Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson could've ended my career. I personally think Robert made a gutsy decision by going it alone. People who talk about us being afraid because we submitted don't know us very well at all. The Rock 'n' Roll Express never has and never will back down from a challenge. I guarantee you we'll win those belts back."

Q: "My question is for Chris Adams: Do you still have flashbacks of the time Gino Hernandez threw that



Chris Adams gets some help after being blinded by Gino Hernandez. Adams says it was a frightening incident he'll never forget.



Missy Hyatt does most of her commenting for the UWF, but she says she would like to appear on *World Championship Wrestling* with Tony Schiavone again. Missy wants even more people to appreciate her perceived announcing skills.

liquid in your eyes and blinded you?"—Steve Hart, Saybrook, IL

A: "Yes, I do," Adams replied. "Many fans may not remember the incident, but I tell you, it was a nightmare, especially because Gino and I had been really good friends. But what a violent end our friendship came to. When that stuff got into my eyes, it burned like the dickens. I'd never felt such a thing

(Continued on page 48)

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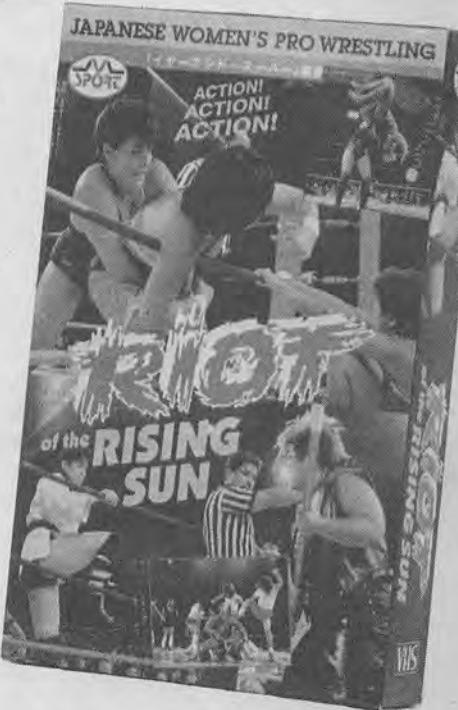
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- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Norio Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami



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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Larry Zbyszko. Welcome to the NWA! All indications are that Zbyszko is ready to stop fooling around and start wrestling. With his fine scientific and martial arts skills, Zbyszko has always had the potential to be a champion. But in the AWA he got too caught up in a feud with Nick Bockwinkel, then wasted most of 1987 advising Curt Hennig. Zbyszko should be wrestling, not advising, and it looks like that's what he'll be doing in the NWA. Zbyszko has been showing off his scientific skills in recent matches. He's also been showing off his new manager, Baby Doll. Good choice, Larry!



Thumbs Up to The Honky Tonk Man. Still waiting for him to lose the Intercontinental title? Don't hold your breath! Despite all the negative things people have said about him—and *The Wrestler* has said more than its share—Honky Tonk is still the champion. Maybe he's not a great wrestler; in fact, he's arguably the worst I-C champion of all time. But the fact is that Honky Tonk still has the strap, and that's a tribute to his perseverance and cunning. Honky Tonk has overcome his shortcomings to stay on top. Isn't that what America is really all about?



Thumbs Up to Bob Backlund. The former WWF World champion is obviously still a gentleman. On a recent *International Championship Wrestling* telecast, Backlund appeared in a split-screen debate with The Iron Sheik. Sheik claimed that he paid Arnold Skaaland to throw in the towel for Backlund when he lost the belt in 1983. Instead of getting into a ridiculous shouting match, Backlund just stood up and left. And now it looks like Backlund is prepared to come out of retirement to defend his honor by taking on the Sheik in a forthcoming series of matches. As usual, Backlund is letting his actions speak louder than words.



Thumbs Up to Lanny Poffo. The poetry-reading star is as well-versed toward the fans as he is toward the ring. He spends a lot of time at arena concession stands meeting and greeting young fans. At a recent WWF card in Rochester, New York, one of our correspondents witnessed a touching scene: Poffo came out from behind the counter to embrace a young boy suffering from Down's syndrome and thanked him for coming out to the matches. It was a selfless act worthy of a true champion—a champion of humanity, if not the ring wars.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Jim Crockett. Supposedly acting in the interests of fairness, Crockett commissioned an unbiased third party to hold the key to the cage for the Starrcade battle between U.S. champion Lex Luger and Dusty Rhodes. The unbiased party: none other than Johnny Weaver, the man who taught Rhodes the Weaverlock. Unbiased? What a sham! Whether Weaver actually favors Rhodes during the match is secondary. Certainly, Crockett could have come up with a *truly* unbiased party. Instead, he risked the integrity of the NWA's most important card of the year.



Thumbs Down to Ted DiBiase. "The Million Dollar Man" isn't worth two cents in our book after his unsportsmanlike display at a recent WWF card at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. There were four men remaining in a battle royal—DiBiase, Jake Roberts, Hercules Hernandez, and Dino Bravo—when DiBiase grabbed the microphone and offered each man \$10,000 to dump themselves over the top rope. "I don't need the money," said DiBiase, "I just want to win." Hernandez and Bravo took the bribe. Roberts refused and went on to win the battle royal. Meanwhile, DiBiase lost the match *and* \$20,000. Touche!



Thumbs Down to Jason the Terrible. The Calgary Stampede superstar has used his hockey goalie mask to evil effect in recent matches against Brian Pillman and Owen Hart. We hate to say it, but we knew it was coming. Now it's time for Stampede wrestling to condemn and stop Jason's horrible actions. In hockey, a goalie mask is used to protect the man who wears it; in Jason's case, the mask is a deadly weapon. The mask, made of molded plastic and capable of stopping a rock-hard puck traveling at blazing speeds, can cause hideous damage to an opponent. That is not wrestling!



Thumbs Down to Percy Pringle. Will this idiot ever stop? Hasn't Pringle realized by now that he can't buy the World Class heavyweight title? Pringle had his chance to manage a champion when Rick Rude ruled World Class, but he eventually cost Rude the title. Now, having gone nearly two years without a champion, Pringle is trying to buy the rights to a strange individual named The Thing from Killer Brooks. Give it a rest, Percy! The Thing will never beat Al Perez or Kevin Von Erich. And trying to buy other people's discoveries is taking a shortcut. Get your own wrestlers, Pringle! □

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INTRODUCING: PETER MAIVIA JR.

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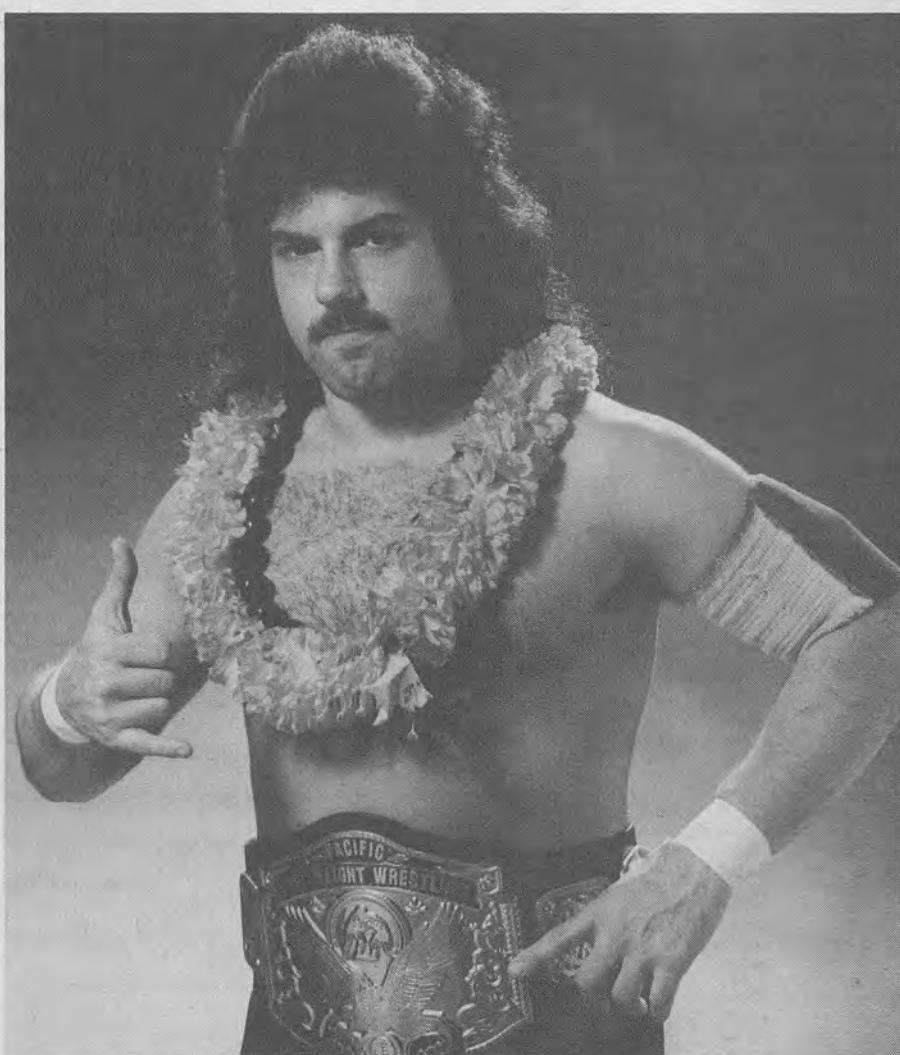
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The latest second-generation grappler to break into the pro ranks is Peter Maivia Jr. The 22-year-old son of the legendary High Chief of Western Samoa is unmistakably a Maivia, both in appearance and accomplishment.

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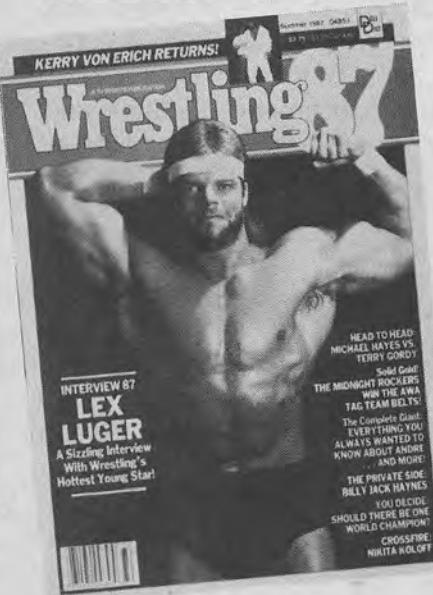
(Continued on page 20)



Carrying on the tradition of his famous father, Peter Maivia Jr. is one of the top wrestlers in Hawaii and on the West Coast. In seven years of wrestling, Maivia Jr. has won several titles, including the Pacific belt he now possesses.

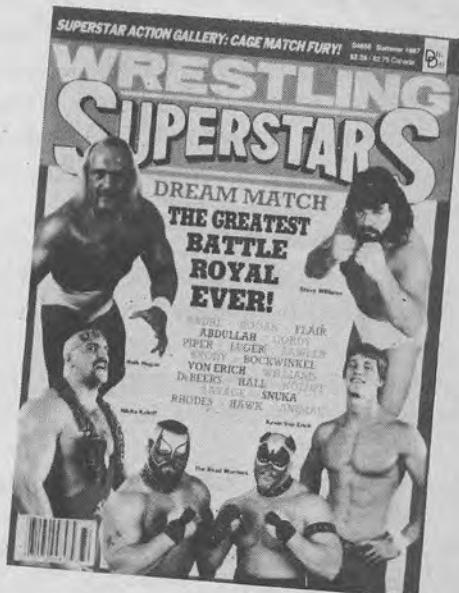
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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

in one package. And like his father, who was equally great at aerial tactics, brawling, or scientific wrestling, young Peter is just as versatile in his ring tactics—and seems destined for the same success.

Peter Maivia Jr. is presently a rising star in the new All-Star California Championship Wrestling Federation, where he holds the tag team title with one of the toughest men ever to step between the ropes, Prof. Toru Tanaka. Junior Maivia, as he is often called, is also considered a top contender for the ACCW heavyweight title recently vacated by Victor Rivera.

But Maivia Jr.'s entry into the pro ranks did not come easily. His wrestling education was long and arduous, with the benefit of his father's experience coming at the expense of having to live up to his name.

"My father began training me when I was 12, and just because I was his kid didn't mean that he was easy on me," he said. "As a matter of fact, he worked me harder than he would anybody else. He always told me that if I wanted to make it in this profession, I had better be able to handle his training and not complain, because no matter how hard he worked me, it still would not compare to a real pro bout."

"We would work out at a school in Hawaii twice a day, first in the ring for about 2½ hours in the morning, and with weights for three hours in the afternoon. I also began studying a form of martial arts called Ninjitsu, in which I currently hold a green belt."

His first pro bout came in Samoa at the age of 15. "I knew as soon as I stepped through the ropes that I wanted to be a pro just like my father," he said.

"Since I was about 10 years old my father always told me that I would someday take his place and continue where he would leave off."

The young grappler was also taken under the wings of two other accomplished wrestlers with vastly different philosophies. First, "Soulman" Rocky Johnson sought to impart to Maivia Jr. some of his hard-hitting scientific ring savvy. Later, Prof. Tanaka acquainted the young man with his interminable mixture of martial arts and mayhem. As a result, he

ACCW tag title. "I had asked the Professor to be my partner for a number of reasons, but for the most part because he was very good friends with my father and reminds me of him."

The duo has been engaged in a violent feud with the Mercenaries, but their perfect blend of youth and experience has allowed Tanaka and Maivia to retain the straps. "The Professor and I will be tagging together in Hawaii and elsewhere. We have been defending our title for six months now, and will continue to defend—and



Maivia twists the arm of The Mercenary. With Prof. Toru Tanaka, Maivia won the ACCW tag team title, and The Mercenaries are their number-one contenders. Maivia has learned much from Tanaka and from Rocky Johnson.

was ready for his first title shot just after his 18th birthday.

Maivia rewarded his mentors' efforts with a victory over The Enforcer for the Americas title of the Hawaiian-based (and NWA-affiliated) Polynesian promotion. He moved on to capture that federation's tag team title (with Lars Anderson) before coming stateside to capture the ACCW Pacific championship.

But his greatest triumph to date came when he and Prof. Tanaka defeated The Hollywood Blonds (Tim Patterson and Billy Anderson) in a wild brawl in Reno, Nevada, on June 19, 1987, for the

defeat—anyone who tries to take that away from us."

Maivia also defends the Pacific heavyweight championship in Hawaii. "I just hope in the future that I can go where my father has gone and be as great as he was," Maivia said. "My goal is to live up to the Maivia name. Whenever my father is I hope he is watching over me and saying 'That's my son.' It's that inner feeling that makes you go a little further."

And judging from how far his son has already come, Peter Maivia Sr. must be truly pleased. □

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Freebird Terry Gordy elbowsmashes Steve Williams. Gordy is returning to the World Class area, where The Freebirds forged their reputation. He says he would eventually like Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts to join him.

Q: Welcome back from Japan, Terry. Obviously, there's been a lot going on in your life, so maybe you can fill us in on the latest details.

A: Sure, Bill. Like you said, I just got back from a tour of Japan, and now I'm ready to get things

straightened out in the U.S. of A. The way it looks now, I'm going to return to the World Class area, although those guys down there seem a bit hesitant. I think they're scared of me.

Q: What do you mean?

A: Well, it's no secret that The

Freebirds create havoc wherever we go. We make things happen, and not all of them are good for our enemies. The Von Erichs have always been in control of things down there, and I'd say they're a bit nervous about me coming back. They probably figure that where there's one Freebird, there's more to follow, and I can't exactly say they're wrong.

Q: I've heard the rumors that you're hoping to bring Michael, and possibly Buddy, back to World Class with you.

A: The more the merrier, that's what I always say. The way I look at it, you can't have a party with one person, though one person can certainly do away with a bottle of Jack Daniels' pretty good, and this place is just ripe for Freebird pickin'. We dominated last time we were down here, and I'd say we can do it again.

Q: This is interesting, because over the past year The Freebirds have gained a reputation as fan favorites. But now, from what you're telling me, it sounds like you're ready to go back after the Von Erichs, the *ultimate* fan favorites.

A: Well, ultimate or whatever. You know, you can cheer me, you can boo me, I don't care. Just because I get cheered doesn't mean I can't bust a few heads if I feel like it. Squash the Von

TERRY GORDY



LOOK OUT, VON ERICHS! Terry Gordy is coming back to Texas, and he means business. This time, however, he's coming back alone, without Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts—the famed Fabulous Freebirds who terrorized the Von Erichs and the rest of the World Class area during the early 1980s.

The Freebird band is now a trio of solo acts. Roberts is wrestling for Wild West wrestling, another Texas promotion. Hayes has formed a controversial tag team with Jim Garvin. And at press time, Gordy, after a successful tour of Japan, was negotiating with WCCW officials for a return in late December or early January.

But Gordy has more on his mind than contract negotiations. He and Roberts are upset over Hayes and Garvin calling themselves The Freebirds and have publicly said so. Roberts and Gordy feel the Freebird name is sacred. Because of this, Gordy is hoping to tear Hayes away from Garvin and bring him to World Class.

Even if that doesn't happen, Terry Gordy on his own could be a significant force in Texas. And Gordy's interview with *The Wrestler* Senior Editor Bill Apter is of significant importance.



A younger Gordy slugs Kerry Von Erich (left). The Freebird-Von Erich feud could easily heat up again. The former UWF champion takes a swipe at One Man Gang (above). Gang won the UWF title by forfeit when Gordy was unable to defend the belt due to an injury. Gordy swears such an incident won't happen again.

Erichs? I don't know. Fate's squashed them pretty good lately. I'm still not sure if I want to join in on the party or not. We'll see what The Freebirds do . . . and Freebirds, by the way, that don't include Jimmy Garvin.

Q: You've had your hands full with Jimmy Garvin recently, haven't you? What exactly is going on with that situation?

A: I'll tell ya what's going on: Garvin's going around callin' him and Michael *The Freebirds*, and you know as well as I do that that just ain't right. There are only three Freebirds—me, Michael, and Buddy Jack—and

that's the way it's always gonna be. Garvin might've been our friend, but that don't give him the right to use our name.

Q: Who says it's Garvin? Maybe it was Hayes' idea.

A: That's ridiculous, Apter. Like I said to that reporter from your other magazine, Michael would never dare abuse our name like that. This is a brotherhood. The Freebirds' motto is etched in blood. Nobody else can use our name. It's as plain as can be that Garvin's trying to take advantage of us.

Q: And Buddy feels the same way?

A: That's right, same as I do. And, like I said, I have nothing

against Garvin. He's fine, as far as I'm concerned, but I draw the line when he starts to use our name. One other thing: If Michael told him it's okay to use our name, well I've got another story for him. It ain't okay. When you go around messing with Freebird pride, you're asking for it. Maybe Michael's forgotten about everything, but I'm gonna remind him.

Q: It sounds to me like you'd like to see The Freebirds get back together. If that's so, why did you break up in the first place? It's only been a few months.

A: It's very simple. I was wrestling more in singles matches. Michael



wanted to tag and Buddy Jack wanted to take it easy for a while. We were just heading in separate directions. Now I'm not saying that I want to get back together. Besides, we're The Freebirds, and in a way we'll always be together. We're brothers, man, we have an alliance. When I was UWF champion, Michael was right there behind me and he was one of the reasons I held that title so long. And you can say all you want about Buddy Jack, but the truth is he is as important a part of the 'Birds as me or Michael.

Q: So what would you say are the chances of The Freebirds getting back together in the World Class

area?

A: Right now, not very good. Michael seems to be happy tagging with Garvin and Buddy's doing pretty well in Wild West. As for me, I've already shown that I can make it as a singles wrestler, so I'm ready to take this place by storm. You can bet your life, though, that if I got into trouble with the Von Erichs down here, Michael and Buddy would be here in a minute.

Q: Is that your goal in World Class, to go after the Von Erichs? In all honesty, that doesn't sound very aggressive. After all, Al Perez is the heavyweight champion, not Kevin Von Erich, and Kerry is still working on his comeback.

Shouldn't you be more concerned with Perez?

A: I can assure you that I've got my eyes on Perez and I've also got my eyes on Hart. The thing about World Class is that it's every man for himself, and I wouldn't hesitate to go after both Perez and the Von Erichs. As for Perez, I have no doubt that I can beat him. I've beaten some of the greatest wrestlers in the world, I'm a former UWF champion, and I've got the ability to beat anyone, including Perez. When I was UWF champion, I wrestled Hacksaw Duggan, Steve Williams, Terry Taylor, Ted DiBiase, the whole lot, and nobody's ever pinned me. I'm going back to World Class planning to win the title, and Perez isn't going to stop me.

Q: Let's go back to the Von Erichs for a minute. Exactly why do you hate them so much?

A: Because they're a bunch of backstabbers. Because they're the idols of these little teenybopper fans who don't realize what a bunch of fakes the Von Erichs really are. Kerry Von Erich's wrestled once in the last two years and he's going around talking like he's the greatest thing on the planet. Well, let me tell you this: Kerry beat Ric Flair in 1984. That's four years ago, *ancient history*, and he's not a shade of what he used to be. As for that little wimp Kevin, he'd be nothing without his brother around to help, and Kerry's practically a cripple.

Q: Strong words.

A: Strong, but true, and I only speak the truth, Apter. That's the only way us Freebirds do things. I'll bet those Von Erichs are shakin' in their shoes because they know I'm comin' back and more Freebirds might follow. They've had this place to themselves for a long time, but now things are changing. Chris Adams is back, I'm coming back,

Stan Hansen is coming in, and this place is just ready to erupt. Just you wait, the Von Erichs are gonna be squashed by their own mediocrity.

Q: I have just one more question, Terry. You've been in this sport for a long time, longer than most people realize, and it seems you've never achieved superstardom on your own. Now that's strange, because you're obvious-



Gordy stands victorious over Killer Khan after a bloody cage encounter (opposite page). During his most recent tour of Japan, the Freebird headlocks John Tenta (above). Gordy does well in Japan, financially and athletically.

ly a very talented wrestler. What do you see in your future and how will you go about becoming a superstar?

A: What the heck are you babbling about, Apter? Ain't you the little wimp what done took a bunch of photos of me and the UWF belt? Don't you remember my wrestling before the UWF in Texas and even with the 'Birds? That's superstardom on my own, buddy, and on my own terms. If I'm not a superstar, nobody is. And as for my future, I see a big bottle of Jack Daniels' and a couple of battered opponents lying around the ring with blood coming out of their ears night after night. And as for you, Apter, you've been involved in this sport a long time, too. How will you go about becoming a real man? □

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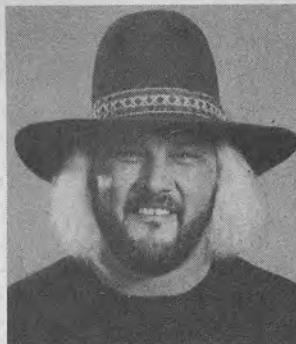


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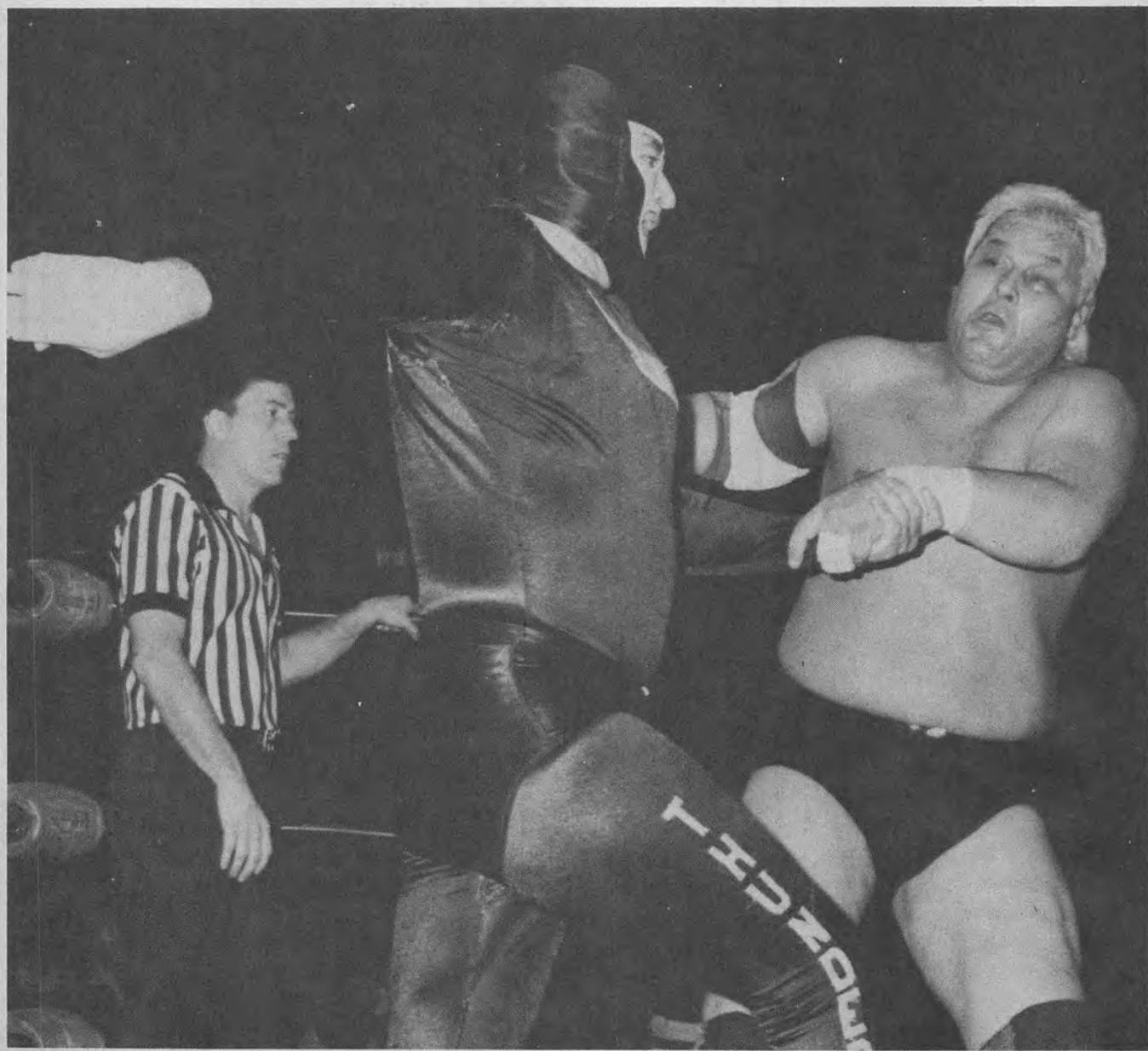
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BOBBY JAGGERS

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THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Bobby Jaggers (whipping Thunderfoot I across the ring) recently won and then lost the AWA Southern championship. What does the future hold for this well-traveled athlete? The "X-Ray" panel tries to answer that question.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Let me tell ya something, daddy, Bobby Jaggers is a man who I have hardly seen, but from what I've seen of him, he's a rough and tough guy, and he's doesn't take nothing from nobody. I know he's the AWA Southern champion, and to do that you've got to have something going for you, because that's one of the toughest areas in the world. But Jaggers has to lose some weight because it's dragging him down. Like the Captain's always said, 'Say no to fat.' "

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 12 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



LARRY HENNIG

"You know, there have been times when I've doubted Bobby Jaggers, but not anymore. Not after seeing what he did to Jerry Lawler. Lawler's been itching for a beating for a long time, and Jaggers gave him what was coming to him. To me, that's a sign that Jaggers has turned the corner for good. Look at what's happened: He beat up Lawler, he won the Southern belt, and now he's finally getting somewhere. Let the fans boo! What the heck do they know?"

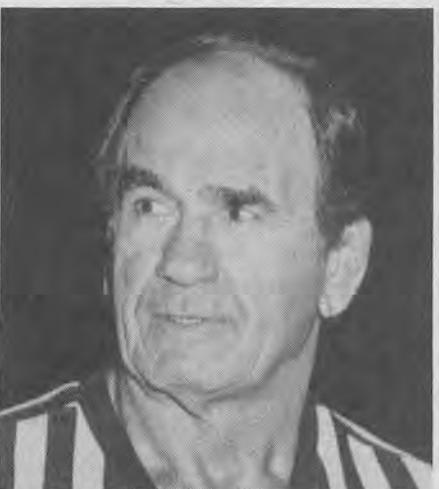
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"There are things I like about Jaggers and things I don't like too much. First of all, I like his style. I like it when a guy's willing to get down on the mat and brawl, because that's what separates the men from the boys. But I'll tell you what I don't like about him: I didn't like that whole Kansas Jayhawks thing with Dutch Mantel, because those two were pandering to the fans. Once you do that, you're finished in this game and there's no turning back."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



LOU THESZ

"We've talked about Bobby Jaggers before, about two years ago, in fact, and I remember saying that I liked him because he's willing to go the distance in even the most brutal matches. I also said that he's got to take more matches against scientific wrestlers to expand his repertoire. Well, he's won a major title, but I'm not sure how. He still lacks scientific abilities and he's still basically one-dimensional. I've definitely soured on Jaggers."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"I have been watching tapes of Bobby Jaggers for this and I am never sure what I am looking at. Here is man who has totally forgotten about martial arts skills and wrestling moves. He is puncher and brawler and he looks very easy to wrestle against. Man with as much years experience as Jaggers should have many moves and styles. He looks to me like he has wasted his time. He could take a lesson from Toru Tanaka, but maybe he's too stupid to learn."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time former WWF World tag titlist with Mr. Fuji, is a successful actor and still wrestles part-time in Hawaii.



JACK BRISCO

"Bobby Jaggers is a very determined wrestler and he's had some success during his career. But he still hasn't shown he can make it in one of the major federations, like the AWA, NWA, or WWF. Now that he's AWA Southern champion, maybe he'll get some shots at the AWA World title. That would be a step in the right direction, and maybe it would give Jaggers the respect he's never received. His new attitude stinks, but I can't deny he's a hard worker."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

SPOT LIGHTS...

JERRY LAWLER

DESPITE HIS LACK of amateur background, Jerry "The King" Lawler has become one of the greatest stars in wrestling history. He owns pin-fall victories over Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, King Kong Bundy, Rick Rude, Nick Bockwinkel, Harley Race, Ric Flair, and many other top stars.

Lawler was born on November 29, 1949, in Memphis. As an artistic teenaged wrestling fan, he sent caricatures of wrestlers to Memphis commentator Lance Russell, who used them to fill airtime on WHBQ-TV in Memphis. Eventually, Russell introduced Lawler to international wrestling superstar Jackie Fargo and country/western singer Eddie Bond. Fargo and Bond commissioned Lawler to do several drawings for their collections.

Lawler went to Memphis State University on a scholarship in commercial art, but became interested in radio and landed a DJ spot on the college station. Impressed with the adoration accorded pro wrestlers and hoping to enter the sport, Jerry offered a small-time promoter free advertising space on his radio show if the promoter allowed him to wrestle once a week. Lawler was paid five dollars to team with Jerry Vickers and was annihilated by the experienced Masked Executioners in his first match.

But rival promoter Nick Gulas was jealous of this free publicity and asked Fargo to talk Lawler out of doing the radio spots. Lawler struck a deal with Fargo: He would hype Gulas' promotion on the air if Fargo would agree to

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism



train him.

Lawler turned pro in 1970. In 1974 he won his first Mid-Southern title, achieved status as the top man in the Mid-Southern area, wrestled his first NWA World title match, and proclaimed himself "The King of Wrestling." At least in Memphis, this tag is well-deserved. Lawler, who idolized Elvis Presley, has become the hottest drawing card in the history of Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum.

Lawler has held more Mid-Southern (now known as AWA Southern) titles than any other man, but didn't gain national attention until his feud with comedian Andy Kaufman in the early 1980s. Lawler got mad at Kaufman for putting down wrestling and challenged him to a series of matches. He seriously injured Kaufman with a piledriver and later embarrassed him on *Late Night With David Letterman*.

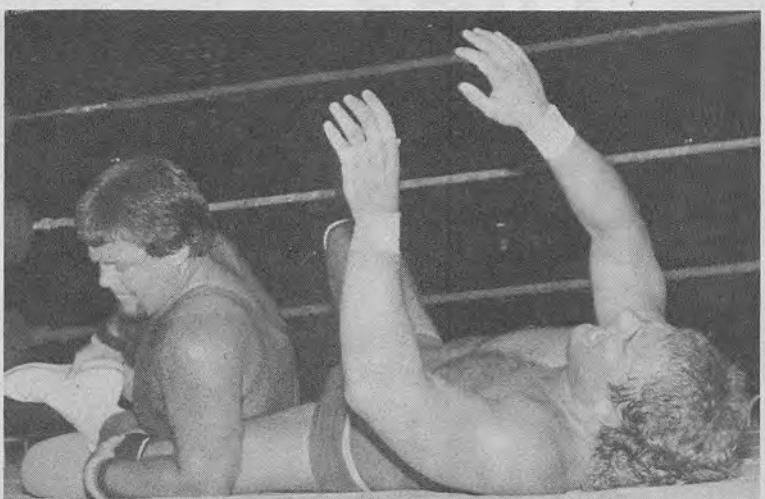
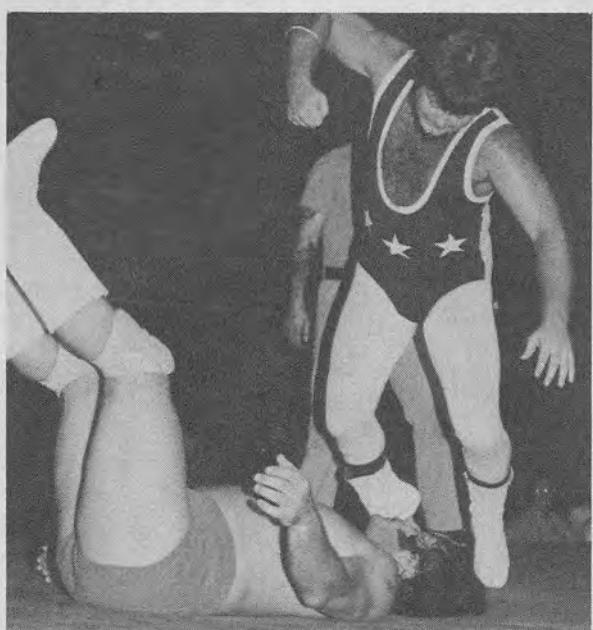
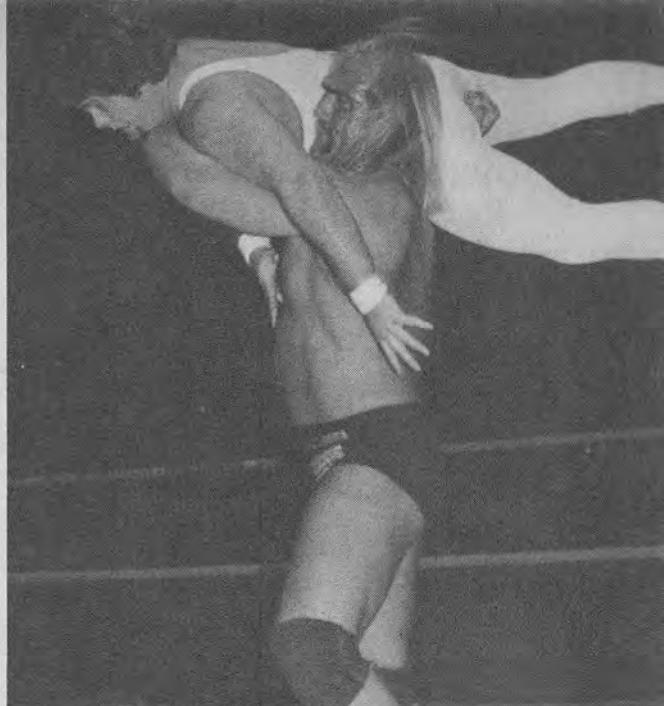
But Lawler's most vicious feud took place last year against Tommy Rich, Austin Idol, and manager Paul E. Dangerously. Idol and Lawler exchanged the AWA Southern belts—and severe injuries—several times. The feud ended when Lawler and Dundee defeated Rich and Idol in a scaffold match. Afterward, Lawler and Dundee pushed Dangerously off the scaffold, breaking his left leg, and nearly castrated him against a ringpost.

Despite his success, Lawler had never held a world title until this past October, when he and Dundee combined to win the AWA tag belts. Although the title reign lasted only 19 days, Lawler had added to his impressive list of accomplishments. And now, only a world heavyweight championship eludes him.

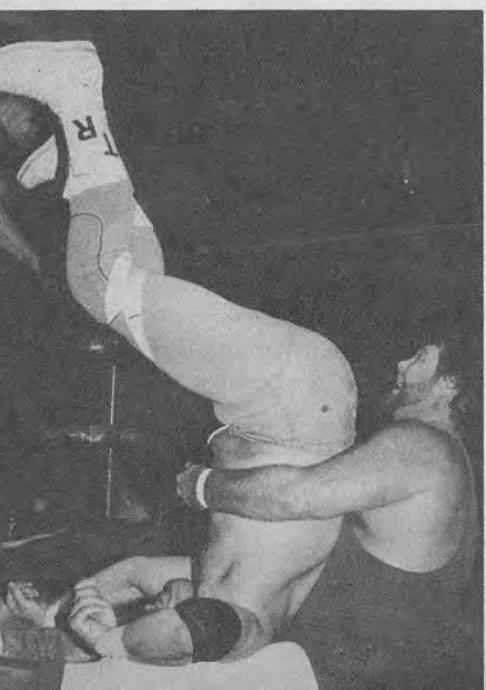
The Wrestler is proud to present this special look at a great star. □



Jerry Lawler got his start in wrestling through his drawings (opposite page). "The King" caused quite an uproar when he appeared on *Late Night With David Letterman* with comedian Andy Kaufman (above). Hulk Hogan slams Lawler (right), but Lawler has scored victories over "The Hulkster."



Lawler aims a fist at "Superstar" Bill Dundee, his most persistent rival over the years (left). A Lawler leglock makes AWA World champion Curt Hennig cry out in pain (above). In 1987, Lawler received several AWA title shots against Hennig and former champ Nick Bockwinkel.



"The King" executes his favorite maneuver, the piledriver, on Tommy Rich (left). Manager Jimmy Hart has had a few run-ins with Lawler (above). Lawler and Terry Funk go at it in a violent encounter (right).



Despite the inevitable comparisons between themselves and The Road Warriors, the duo of Ax and Smash have carved out a place for themselves near the top of the tag team rankings in the WWF. That's not the result of imitation, that's the real thing!

They Can Stand On Their Own

DON'T COMPARE DEMOLITION

IF IMITATION IS the sincerest form of flattery, then Ax, Smash, and Mr. Fuji are big fans of The Road Warriors. With their outrageous makeup, leather trunks and harnesses, and pumped-up physiques, they appear to be a calculated and blatant attempt to emulate the greatest tag team in the sport.

"Cheap imitations!"

"Road Warriors forever!"

"Where's your fake Ellering?"

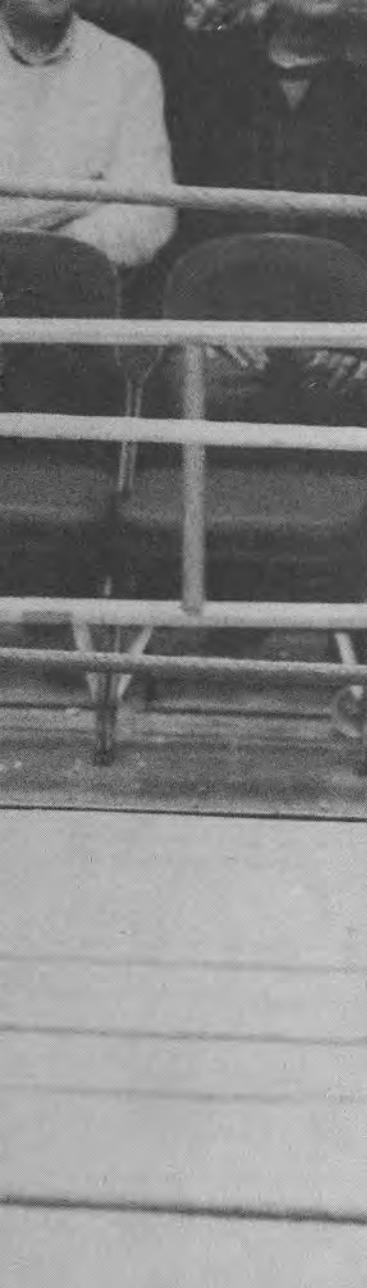


These were among the reactions among fans when Demolition stomped onto the WWF tag team scene early last year. Their audacious attempt to capitalize on the image of the NWA's greatest tag team—indeed, on the team many say is the greatest ever in the history of the sport—was greeted with outrage and derision.

But although they looked like the Warriors, they wrestled nothing like

them. They were sorely tested by low-level teams in the WWF. The jeers mounted. The comparisons with the Warriors were absurd at best. It seemed that Ax and Smash were about to fall flat on their painted faces.

Before long, however, the action in the ring began to outweigh the hyperbole behind WWF microphones. Ax and Smash never doubted that they had the talent to



Ever since they started in the WWF, Demolition (left) has been compared with The Road Warriors (above). At first the critics had a point, but now Demolition is beginning to establish themselves as a good team in their own right.

TO THE ROAD WARRIORS

rise to the top. They began to hold their own—and gain occasional wins—against some of the best teams in the WWF.

While it's obvious that they aren't going to make anyone forget the Warriors, Demolition has gained a measure of respectability. Fans and observers now spend more time weighing them on their own merits than making comparisons.

Hawk and Animal's reaction to

any mention of Demolition was, is, and probably always will be, uproarious laughter, coupled with a string of expletives unsuitable for publication. But the reaction among fans and professional experts has softened somewhat. "They're not as good as the Warriors, but what team is?" seems to be the general consensus.

"The point is, if you think about it carefully, if there were no Road

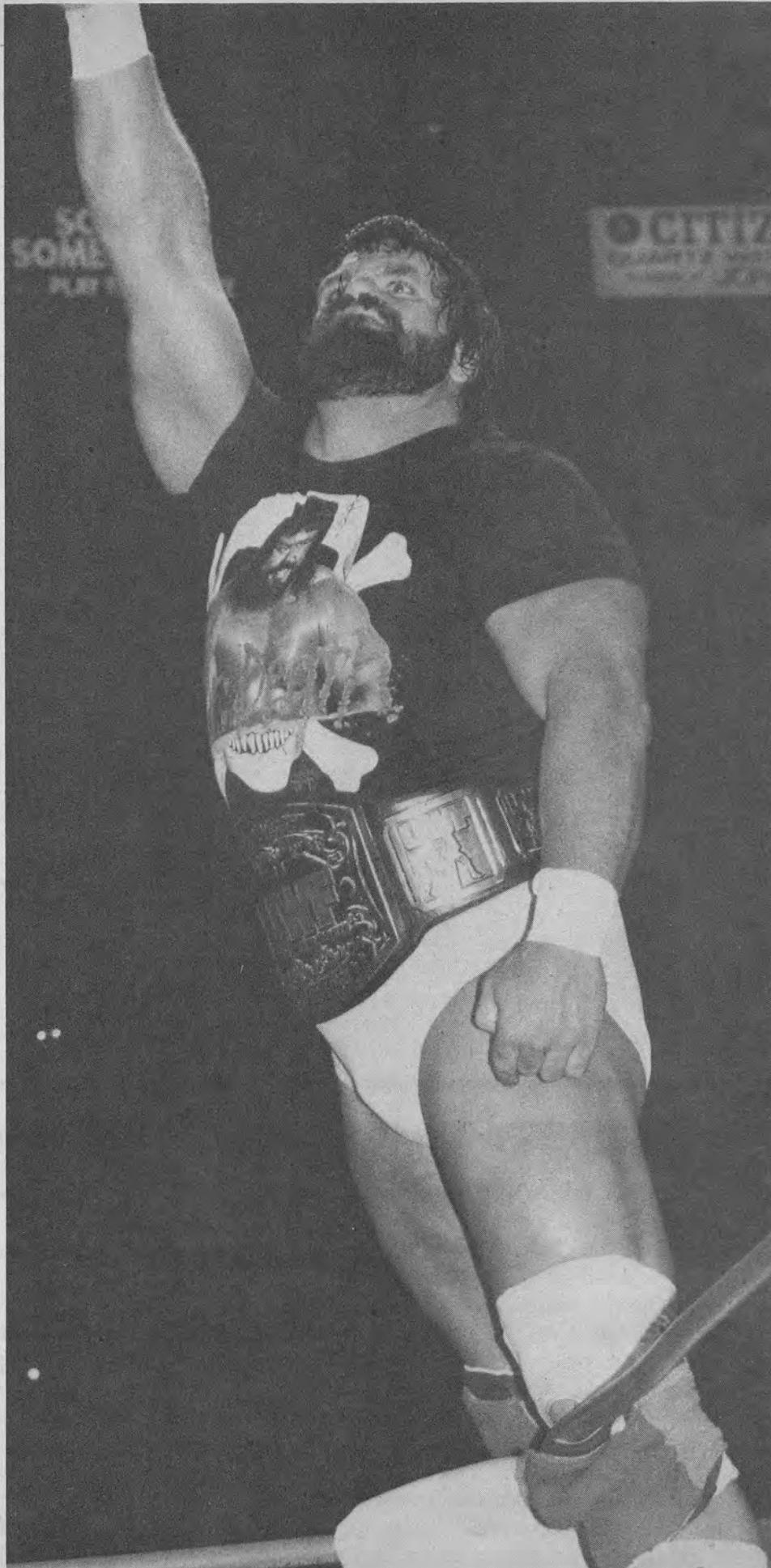
Warriors, then Demolition would be considered to be a pretty formidable team," said Managing Editor Craig Peters. "The problem is that they're living in the shadows of the Warriors, and that's a reputation that no team should have to try and match."

Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, at first one of Ax and Smash's harshest critics, now takes a more objective

(Continued on page 50)

Warning To The UWF: **YOU'RE HOLDING BACK STEVE WILLIAMS!**

By denying UWF heavyweight champion Steve Williams the opportunity to wrestle for the NWA World crown, the shortsightedness of the federation's commissioners is embarrassingly apparent—and may cost them their greatest star!



LIKE THE FOOTBALL team of his alma mater Oklahoma University, former Sooner offensive guard and current UWF heavyweight champion Steve Williams is rolling through competition like a freight train. But in piling up victory after easy victory, both Williams and the UWF are in danger of losing their edge.

"Oklahoma doesn't know whether they can cover an on-side kick or play prevent defense," said a rival coach after his team lost to Oklahoma by a score of 71 to 10. "Oklahoma's players don't know yet if they can play with a chill down their spines. That's a terrible thing because the level of competition in our conference is so bad."

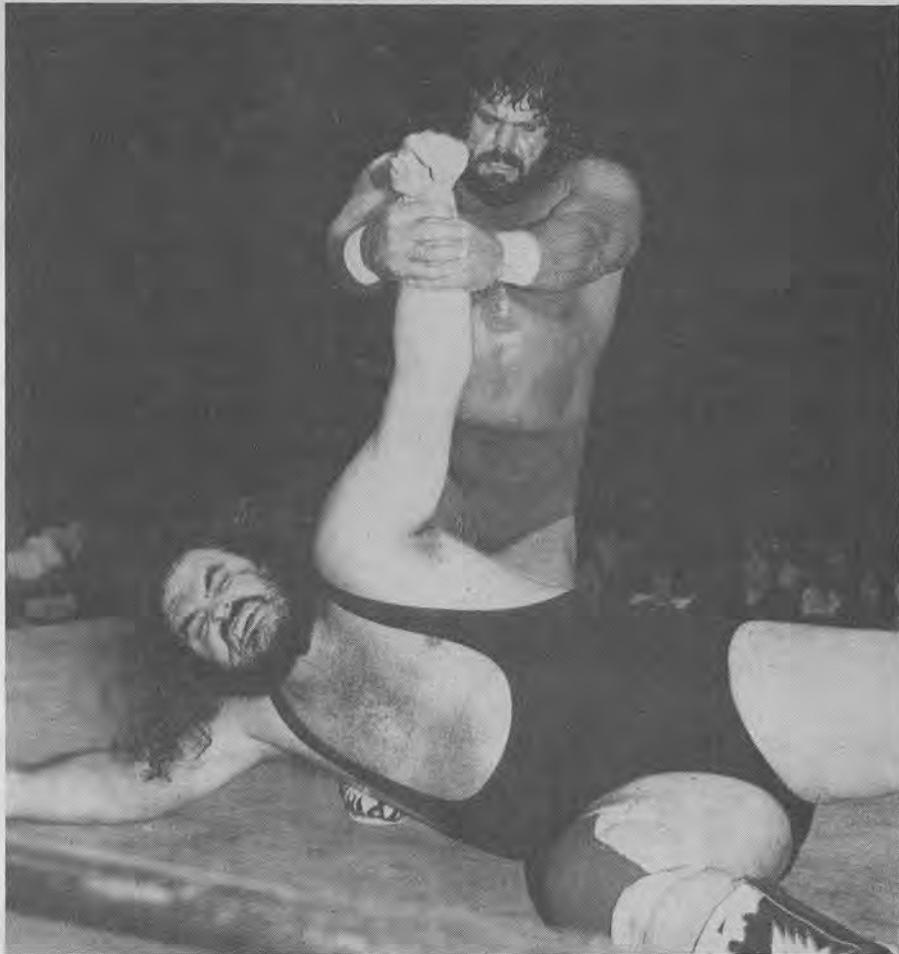
Ditto Steve Williams.

"Like a tank through a rice paddy," is how one sportswriter described the carnage Williams had wrought upon the UWF—or at least those wrestlers in the UWF he's faced. Williams is undefeated since capturing the federation's championship in July, but he's yet to be challenged. There are two reasons for this: The opponents he has faced he's beaten handily, and he has yet to face serious and sustained challenges from some of the area's top stars such as Sting, Larry Zbyszko, and Barry Windham.

And that might pose a problem somewhere down the road.

"Williams has two aspirations: to compete for the NWA title, and to build his UWF title to where it's equal in stature to the NWA belt," said one critic, "but he's not getting any better wrestling the same people over and over. Black Bart, Eddie Gilbert, Black Bart, Eddie Gilbert. It's like training to climb Mt. Everest by walking a treadmill."

Windham, who has thus far faced Williams just once, can sympathize. Windham recalls the lazy months he spent in Florida, bored and sluggish, just to appease his



UWF champion Steve "Dr. Death" Williams arm bars Black Bart (above) and slams him (below). Tired of what he sees as a lack of competition in the UWF, Williams wants a shot at the NWA World title, but officials in both the NWA and UWF have denied his request.



father.

"There was a time when Dad wanted me around just to be around," he says. "I had accomplished all I could in Florida. I won all the titles, had resolved all the feuds. There was hardly any new competition coming into the area, so I ended up wrestling the same opponents 10 and 20 times. At that point your concentration dissolves. You get careless, you make stupid mistakes, and you become prone to injury."

"Without goals an athlete is dead," Windham continued. "I know Williams wants the NWA title. That's his motivation, and it's a good one. Once that desire gets in your blood, it's hard to shake. As far as I'm concerned, he'd better watch out for me because I'm gonna kick his butt. But I know where he's coming from. On the way to the NWA title, he wants to build up the UWF title. It's a tough job, but I think Doc is the kind of

(Continued on page 54)



**After
Four
Years
As
Champion ...**

ONLY HULK HOGAN CAN BEAT HULK HOGAN!

Barring a nuclear attack, it appears that the only thing that can jeopardize Hulk Hogan's title reign is Hulk Hogan. Can he maintain the mental peak he needs to stay on top against an endless stream of determined challengers?

YEARS AGO, IN the days B.H. (Before Hogan), a conversation took place on a late-night radio talk show between two famous ex-wrestling champions.

"I don't see one man becoming a dominant force anymore," said one champion whose style, a mix of scientific brilliance and combative rough-housing, dominated the 1940s. "Pro wrestling has achieved parity. There are two or three dozen men who are good enough to become world champions. I wouldn't be surprised if, in the next 10 years, 20 different wrestlers capture the belt."

His colleague, a wily grappler in his

day, known for his ability to exploit opponents' weaknesses, agreed. "Back when we wrestled," he remarked, "there were four, maybe five men who controlled the ring. They were the major leagues and everyone else was a notch below. Today it's a free-for-all. No one stands out in the crowd."

"I think it's great for wrestling, especially for wrestling fans. They can rally behind some guy knowing he has a real shot at the title. It makes the sport more exciting."

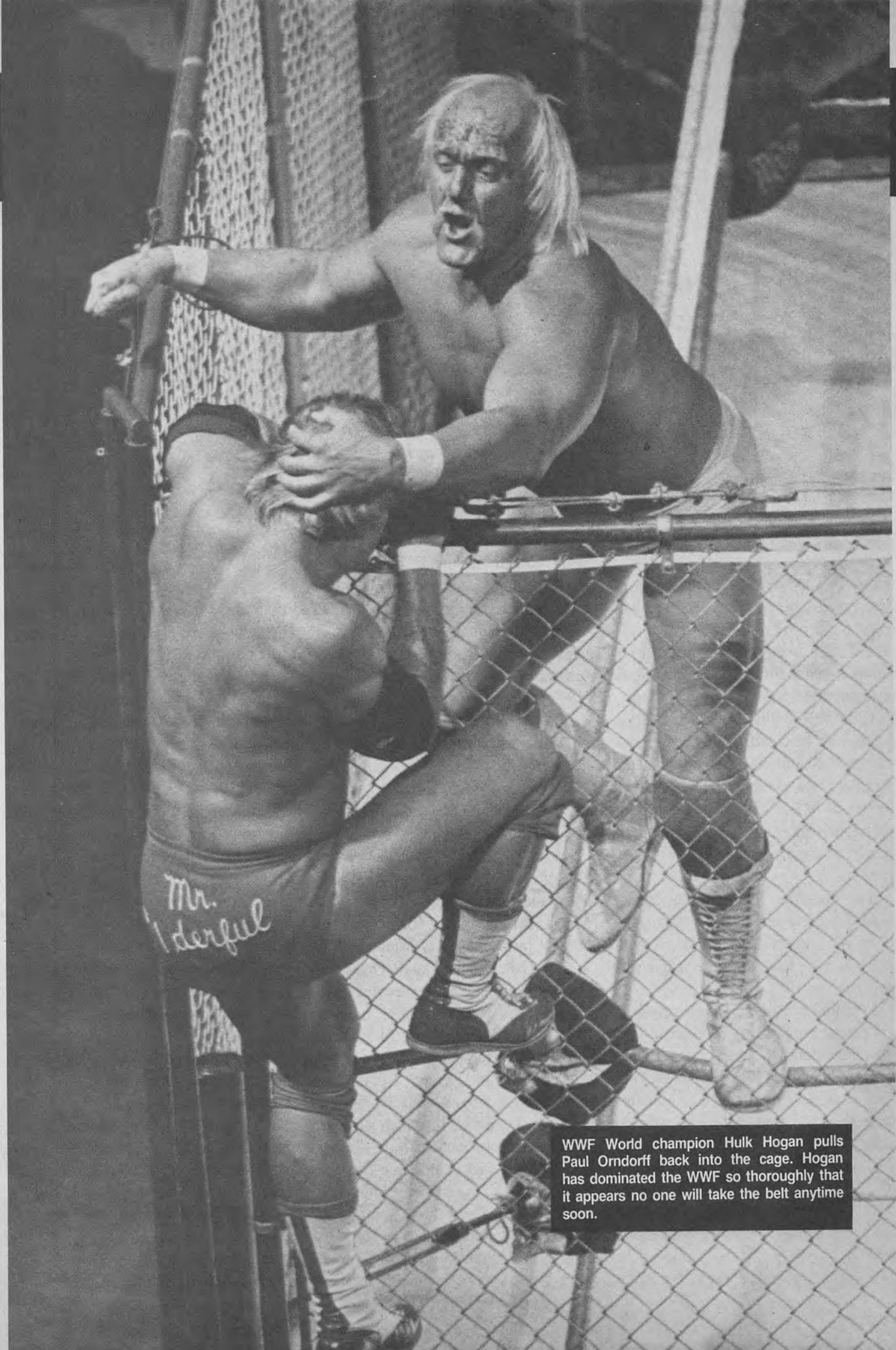
In these days of A.H. (you know what *that* means), we can eliminate some of the two or three dozen men capable—according to ring legends

who shall remain nameless—of winning the WWF belt.

Randy Savage. Paul Orndorff. Andre the Giant. King Kong Bundy. One Man Gang. Magnificent Muraco. Ted DiBiase. Greg Valentine. Honky Tonk Man. Iron Sheik. Nikolai Volkoff. George Steele. Jake Roberts. Ken Patera. Killer Khan. David Shultz. Jesse Ventura. Cowboy Bob Orton. Brutus Beefcake. Terry Funk. John Studd. Adrian Adonis.

Should we continue?

He's been triple-teamed, beaten up, left for dead, and wrestled for the title the next evening; he won. He's body-slammed Bundy, Studd, and Andre the



WWF World champion Hulk Hogan pulls Paul Orndorff back into the cage. Hogan has dominated the WWF so thoroughly that it appears no one will take the belt anytime soon.



Hogan whips King Kong Bundy across the ring. "The Hulkster" scored a big victory over Bundy at WrestleMania II.

Giant. He makes dozens of personal appearances a year (maybe even a month!), survives on little or no sleep, yet tightens his grip on the title with each passing month. His popularity is such that it is reported he once turned down a million-dollar offer to wrestle in Japan for one week.

Criticize his skills, mock his style, adore him to death, or hope his plane crashes—no one has ever dominated a wrestling ring like Hulk Hogan. As his tenure as WWF champion approaches the four-year mark, Hogan appears nearly invincible, his reign of success unrelenting.

The question, then, in this age of alleged parity, remains: Is there anybody out there who can take Hogan's title? Is there anyone in the world who can beat him?

It should provoke a simple response. Of course Hogan can be beaten. He's slow and slothlike in the ring, incapable of defending against speed. His ring strategies are predictable, limited mainly to some fist-pumping, with an occasional elbowsmash and legdrop thrown in for good measure. Despite his celebrated pythons, there are at least a dozen wrestlers equally as strong. His hectic schedule rarely permits him time to train properly; he often appears to be wrestling from



The champion has Hercules Hernandez ready to be pinned after locking him in Hernandez's own favorite move, the full-nelson. memory. He is a champion begging to be conquered.

So?

"So? Sew buttons!" responds noted wrestling columnist Matt Brock. "For years Hogan has made idiots out of us. Wrestling's greatest analysts have predicted his fall from the beginning. He has no right to be champion. He lacks the moves, the grace, and the stamina to be champion for so long. Yet, champion he remains. Finally, we must give him his due. We must concede that his package ain't pretty, but it's effective."

"He always finds a way to win. In the final analysis, that's the only mark of a champion that matters."

Recently, a trio of challengers to Hogan's title have captured the headlines and imaginations of fans and writers. But, according to Brock, don't bet the farm against Hogan yet. Rick Rude, Ted DiBiase, and One Man Gang are nothing to get excited over.

"Big deal. Rude, DiBiase, and One Man Gang. Hernandez, King Kong Bundy, and Muraco. What about Piper, Orndorff, and Savage? I don't even think Hogan knows who he wrestles anymore. He claims to switch strategies according to opponents. I don't believe him. He just says, 'Show me the ring, show me the man, and leave me alone. I'll take care of the rest.'

"The only thing that can beat Hogan is boredom," Brock continues. "But as long as he maintains the rela-



One Man Gang feels the power of a Hogan headlock. Hogan has faced—and beaten—many of the largest men in the sport.

tionship he has with the fans, I don't think he'll ever get bored. Mr. Hogan will be around a long time."

Long enough to eclipse Bruno Sammartino's 7½-year title mark?

Two things are working in Hogan's favor. One: close associates reveal that Hogan would love to break Bruno's mark. With that goal in mind, Hogan's giant-sized ego would provide the necessary motivation over the next 3½ years.

Two: as Hogan's reputation enlarges, the caliber of challengers filtering into the WWF seems to be diminishing. Wrestlers who represent real challenges—Stan Hansen, Bruiser Brody, Ric Flair, Lex Luger, etc.—are all contractually obligated to other regions. Hogan can chew on a steady diet of DiBiases and Rudes forever and still pursue the movie career he so desperately wants.

If he can avoid injury and remain alert and committed, there are those who believe Hulk Hogan can take his championship into the 21st century.

"It's possible that the man who will eventually topple Hogan is still in grammar school," says Brock. "And that's mind-boggling!" □

J.J. Dillon Orders Lex Luger:



STOP STING BEFORE HE GETS TO RIC FLAIR!

THESE ARE TRYING times for Mr. Ric Flair. Although feeling sorry for Flair is somewhat akin to feeling sympathy for the devil (yes, Flair lost his vaunted NWA World crown for the fourth time, but isn't it also true that he sold all his stock two days before the market crashed?), the former NWA champion is experiencing some anxious moments. And there's with no letup in sight.

While Flair may soon discover a way to regain the belt that has come to be known as *his* belt, the veil of invincibility he had carefully constructed was shredded by Ronnie Garvin's hands of stone. Expose a man's myth and you expose the man himself. The world always knew Flair could be had, but were mystified as to why he wasn't. Now they see him as

he is: a beaten ex-champion. And that's only the good news.

The bad news is that Flair now has UWF assassin Sting hot on his trail. Word is out that Sting, cut from the same imposing cloth as The Road Warriors and Lex Luger, wants a big piece of Flair. Preferably his head. On a platter.

Not since Lex Luger's ascension to stardom in Florida two years ago has a young wrestler captured the public's imagination the way Sting has. Like Luger, Sting hasn't the patience to work his way slowly up the ranks. He wants recognition and instant credibility—credibility that would be guaranteed by the destruction of Flair.

If past experience is any indicator, grapplers whom Sting finds contemptible usually pay a penal-

J.J. Dillon gives Lex Luger his final instructions before the match starts (top). Luger slams Sting outside the ring (below). If Luger eliminates Sting from serious title contention, he's done his job—for Ric Flair.



Many people say that Lex Luger was welcomed into The Four Horsemen as a way of protecting Ric Flair from Luger's title aspirations. Now Luger is being used as the number-one weapon in the war against Sting before Sting is strong enough to damage the Horsemen in general—and Flair in particular!

ty. "Once Sting didn't like the way his opponent combed his hair," the source continued. "So he cracked the man's skull so the doctors would have to shave his head. In certain moments, he's quite insane."

Which is why J.J. Dillon, Flair's business adviser and manager of The Four Horsemen, is taking steps to protect his investment. He has assigned Lex Luger to "get Sting" before Sting can get to Flair. This bit of strategy has left Flair embarrassed, Dillon worried, Luger livid, and Sting angrier still.

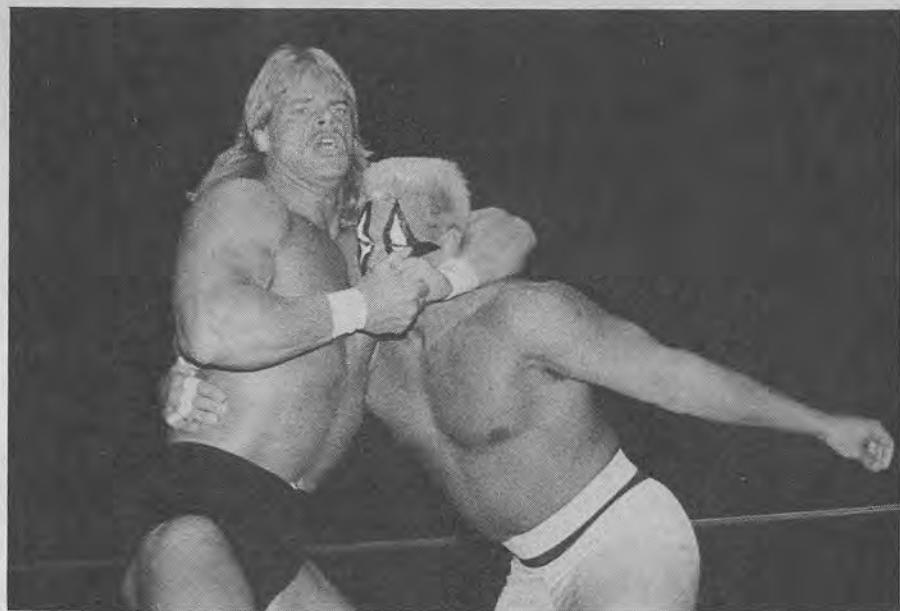
"I think Dillon is overreacting," suggested *World Championship Wrestling* announcer David Crockett. "He looks at Sting and feels threatened, but he forgets that Flair has handled men of Sting's size and strength his entire career."

Luger welcomed the challenge to "wipe the mascara off that muscle-headed twit" but was concerned about possible misconceptions. "I am not Ric Flair's bodyguard," he stated emphatically. "First off, Ric Flair doesn't need a bodyguard. He can handle his own battles. It's the philosophy of the Horsemen to help each other should a crisis arise. Flair is training for a title rematch with Garvin. He can't be bothered by some idiot in makeup. So I will dispose of Sting in his place."

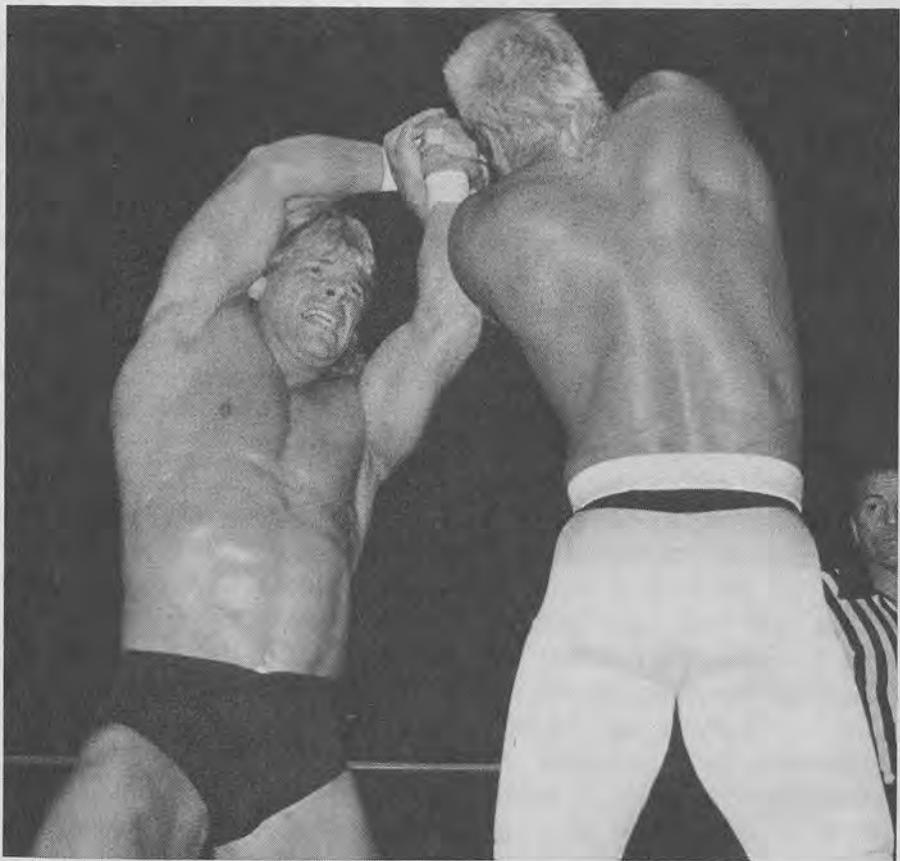
Dillon, worried that the entire episode may tear the delicate fabric of the Horsemen to shreds, echoes Luger's words. "This is not a case of me telling Lex to protect Ric because he can't defend himself. That is absurd. Luger's just helping out in a pinch. While Flair is busy training, Luger will get some exercise."

The real winners in this melodrama are the wrestling fans who are privileged to watch these goliaths do battle.

"If it wasn't for this feud, it may have been years before Sting and



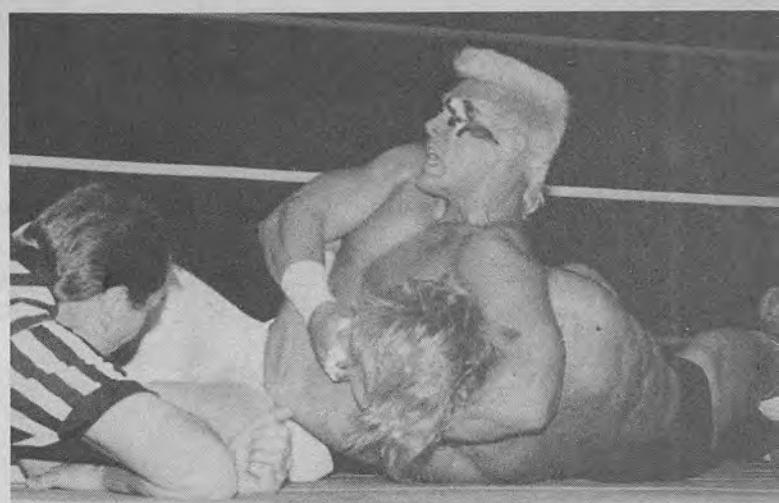
Luger headlocks Sting (above) and engages him in a test of strength (below). Though their ring styles are similar, Luger and Sting have an entirely different set of priorities. Luger's success is unquestionably tied in with the fortunes of The Four Horsemen, while Sting is more or less on his own.



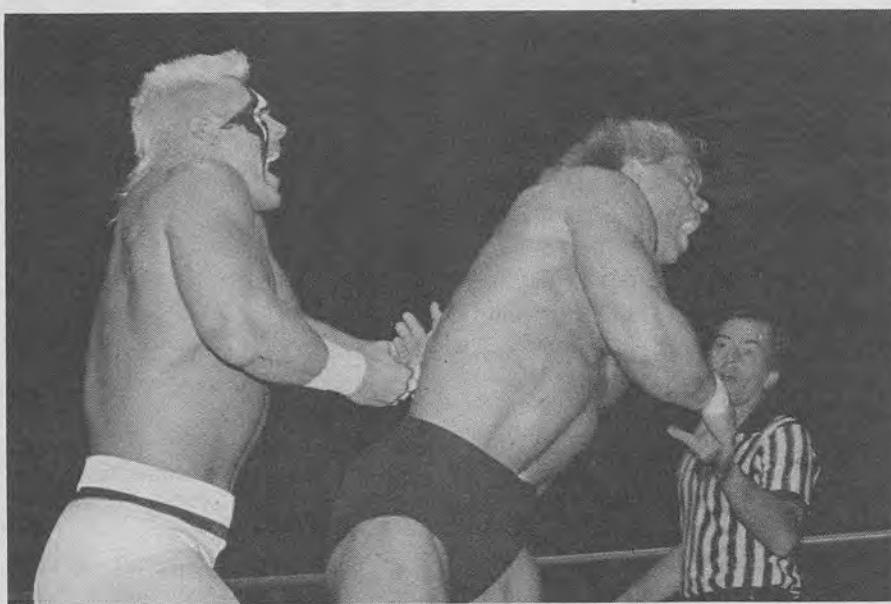
Luger wrestled," said UWF Commissioner John Ayres. "Two guys so young and powerful usually sidestep each other for a long time. Neither one of them wants to get knocked off the ladder of contention. It'll be a wild, wild feud, that's for certain."

Indeed, the first meeting be-

tween Sting and Luger was turbulent and turbo-charged. Showing little finesse and plenty of disdain for each other, the grapplers attacked each other with reckless fury. A match of muscles, bodyslams, and suplexes ended in a double-disqualification as both men were slugging away at each



Sting flips Luger (left), headlocks him (above), goes for the sunset flip (right), and applies a chicken wing (below). When word got out that Sting was after Ric Flair, Dillon immediately ordered Luger to block Sting's path. Luger, for his part, insists that he isn't protecting Flair.



other outside of the ring. Several rematches, equally violent in pitch, proved inconclusive. This feud may span a career before spawning a result.

Although Flair has been uncharacteristically silent, those close to him describe a man smug and content. Said one,

"Flair did not become Flair on his good looks. He is the smartest wrestler in the sport. Somehow he has positioned Luger and Sting, his two main threats—Sting realistically and Luger potentially—into a feud with each other.

"Watching their effortless movements, their power and sheer

force of will, there's little doubt that either of them could have their way against Flair," the source continued. "But as long as they wrestle each other, Flair has nothing to worry about. Let the Ronnie and Jim Garvin and Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham attack him. Flair can handle them. Luger and Sting are in a different league entirely."

Flair dismissed the statements as "utter nonsense."

"Where does Nikita Koloff fit into this theory?" Flair asked. "I wrestle him, don't I? Isn't he on the same 'super level' as you magazine idiots place Sting and Luger?"

"I won't talk about this anymore. I won't involve myself in a stupid argument."

Don't get involved. Sit comfortably on the sidelines and let others battle it out.

Just the way Ric Flair likes it. □

Who's Who In Calgary

A FAN'S GUIDE TO STAMPEDE WRESTLING

Owen Hart. The youngest son in the famous Hart family (father Stu and brothers Brett, Bruce, Keith, Dean, Smith, and Wayne are all active wrestlers) began amateur wrestling when he was six years old and won the Canadian National Amateur championship in early 1986. Owen turned pro immediately afterward, winning his first North



Owen Hart (lifting a knee into Makian Singh) is an outstanding scientific wrestler who was an amateur champion in Canada.

American title from Makian Singh on July 19, 1986. Although Singh recaptured the strap two months later, Owen regained the title on April 19, 1987, and defended it frequently against a frightening array of opponents. A perfect blend of ring science, brawling, and aerial

skills, Owen once amazed observers with a flying bodypress off the top rope—five rows into the audience! His repertoire of maneuvers seems endless, and a recent successful tour of Japan left no doubt that he will quickly develop into an international star.

Bruce Hart. This member of the Hart family sacrifices scientific moves for a more direct brawling approach, a style he feels is more effective against men like Makian Singh and Jerry Morrow. In addition to holding the International tag team title with Brian Pillman, Bruce has also held the tag belts with brother Keith. He once beat Dynamite Kid for the British Commonwealth title.

Makian Singh. The former North American champion started in Stampede as fan favorite Mike Shaw, but soon turned evil under the influence of Gama Singh, whose last name he adopted. Though a big man at 6'2", 380 pounds, Makian is agile and very good at using his weight to his advantage. His "Karachi Krunch" splash has crippling potential.

Gama Singh. Also known as "The Great Gama," this sadistic man is the leader of a vicious gang of rulebreakers known as "Karachi



Gama Singh knees Mr. Hito in the throat. Singh, the British Commonwealth champion, leads a vicious stable of grapplers known as "Karachi Vice."

Vice." Gama is currently in the fourth British Commonwealth title reign of his 14-year career. An excellent wrestler who alternates scientific holds with brutal rulebreaking, his pet move is the "Cobra," a sleeperhold variation. When not wrestling, he directs fellow Vice members Makian Singh, Jude Rosenbloom, Steve DiSalvo, and Bad News Allen in their own matches.

Photos by Bob Leonard

With the winter Olympics kicking off in February, the city of Calgary has suddenly been discovered by mainstream sports fans. But as headquarters of Stampede Wrestling, the capital of Alberta, Canada, has long been considered a mecca of wrestling. Who's who in Calgary? This special section will tell you!

WRESTLING JOURNALISTS have long been bullish on the Stampede area. Owen Hart's recent victory in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* Rookie of the Year fan ballot for 1987 may have surprised some, but it's fast becoming clear that the Stampede area is no longer wrestling's best-kept secret. The action in Calgary is long on talent

and stirring feuds and short on excess hype and glitz.

Such stars as The British Bulldogs, The Hart Foundation, and The Honky Tonk Man wrestled in Stampede before going on to become top WWF stars. And an amazing array of rising and established talent keeps the ring wars packed with action and excitement.

The Wrestler recently added a monthly Stampede top 10 to our ratings pages, and we believe it will be beneficial to all readers to offer the following summary of the area's top stars. Scientific and rulebreaking, young and old, you'll undoubtedly be hearing much, much more about these men in the months and years to come.

Brian Pillman. This exciting young grappler was a former defensive lineman with the Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL and the Calgary Stampede of the Canadian Football League before turning pro about a year ago. His dropkick is already one of the most feared in the sport, and his aerial skills are beginning to rival those of Owen Hart. Pillman, too, enjoys executing the dropkick from the top rope. Pillman and Bruce Hart have been involved in a feud with Makian Singh and

Jerry Morrow, with the International tag team belts changing hands between the teams several times.

Jason the Terrible. One of the most vicious and dangerous men in the sport—bar none—is a top challenger for Owen Hart's North American title. Hideously burned in a gasoline explosion as a child, he now uses a hockey goalie's mask to hide the scars. He also uses it as a weapon to disfigure opponents, especially when he delivers headbutts

from the top rope. Scientific wrestlers have campaigned in vain to have the mask banned. His only friend is spokesman and sometime tag team partner, the masked Zodiac.



Masked terror Jason the Terrible pummels Brian Pillman against the ring barrier. Jason uses a hockey goalie's mask to hide his badly disfigured face.

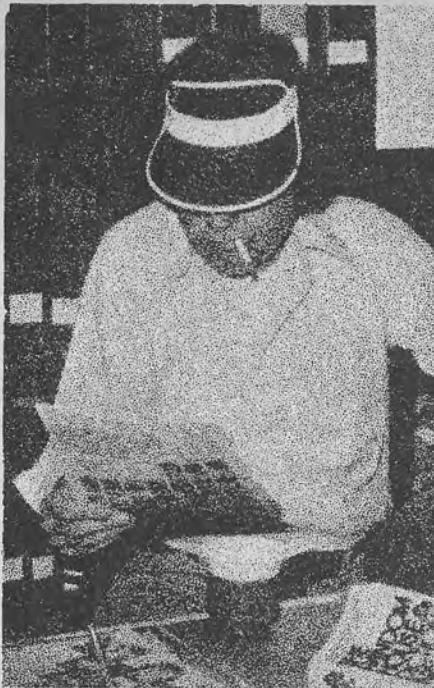


Hiro Hase executes a flying bodypress on Gama Singh. Once a member of the Viet Cong Express, Hase runs his own career now.

Hiro Hase. This former member of the rulebreaking Viet Cong Express changed his philosophy after his partner suffered a heart attack and he himself was beaten and unmasked by Karachi Vice. The former

(Continued on page 58)

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

January 16, 1970 22-Man Los Angeles Battle Royal

WHEN LOU THESZ flipped Pat O'Connor over the top rope to win the old-timers' battle royal in the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey in November, it unleashed a flood of recollections about other great battle royals past.

Although the Los Angeles Olym-

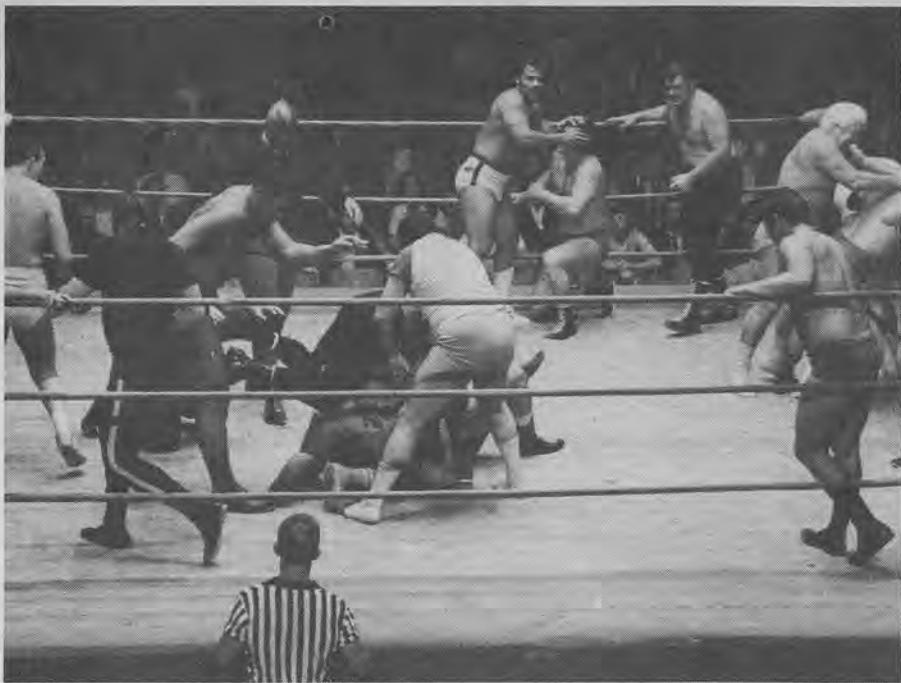
pic Auditorium will unfortunately soon go the way of Ebbets' Field and the Polo Grounds, the bulldozers that will demolish that hallowed arena will not budge my memories of one of the wildest wrestling events—and greatest individual performances—it has ever been my

pleasure to witness.

The excitement spawned by that 22-man free-for-all helped bring battle royals to the wrestling world to stay. The action and mayhem I witnessed that night will stand out from the rubble of my memory forever.



Wrestlers await the bell to start the famous 22-man battle royal in Los Angeles in 1970. Matt Brock writes that this match was one of the first of the major battle royals. It was held in the Olympic Auditorium, which is about to be demolished.



In 1970, battle royals were still considered a new—and exceedingly dangerous—innovation in wrestling. A few had been held in small arenas throughout the country, but when Olympic promoter the late Eileen Eaton announced that a 22-man, \$10,000 donnybrook would follow the regular card at the Olympic that January night, I had my bags packed and ticket bought before you could say “over-the-top rope.”

I was eager to see how such stars as Fred Blassie, Mil Mascaras, Rocky Johnson, Pepper Martin, The Great Kojika, Don Carson, Mr. Atomic, The Oregon Lumberjack, Earl Maynard, and The Mauler would adapt their individual styles to this new method of mat warfare.

It was only with the greatest of difficulty that Mrs. Eaton was even able to persuade the California State Athletic Commission to sanction the bout. The knowledge that this could be one of the first—and possibly the very last—battle royal ever held in a major arena gave the event nationwide importance; the press box was a veritable Who's Who of wrestling journalists.

The sellout crowd was torn between apprehension and anticipation as each wrestler was introduced. The ring looked awfully

The action—and the mayhem—begins as one poor soul is ganged up on in the middle of the ring (above). Rocky Johnson (below) won the match and \$10,000 when he pinned The Oregon Lumberjack.



small with the combatants packed into it.

The bell rang and wrestling entered a new era. Friends and tag team partners immediately joined together to eliminate their most hated rivals first. It was payback time all around as several wrestlers took the opportunity to settle accounts. Blassie clamped a stranglehold on Mascaras, tangled Mil's head in the second rope, and

wrenched his feet off the canvas. Blassie's ally Don Carson then charged across the ring and landed square on the masked star's neck. The match was temporarily halted as Mascaras was taken to the hospital with what was later diagnosed as a twisted neck. □

Former Mr. Universe Earl Maynard was the next to fall to the rampaging duo, followed by the Great Kojika. The Oregon Lumberjack and Rocky Johnson ganged up on Blassie, while Pepper Martin and Mr. Atomic targeted Carson through the hail of flying bodies.

When Martin and Atomic threw Carson out of the ring, it was open season on Blassie. The remaining wrestlers vied with each other to punish him, and a rain of elbows, dropkicks, and clotheslines rained down on the obnoxious blond, much to the delight of the crowd. Blassie soon realized he'd be killed if he remained. Forgetting all about the \$10,000 prize money, Blassie hightailed it back to the dressing room.

With five wrestlers left, tactics changed again. Johnson rocked Martin and Mr. Atomic with flying mares before dropkicking both men out of the ring. He then body-slammed and pinned the Mauler. But the friendship of a few minutes was forgotten as the Lumberjack caught Johnson clamped him in a full-nelson. Johnson powered out of it, felled and pinned the Lumberjack for the \$10,000 prize, and basked in the wild cheers of the crowd.

But the Rock was on a roll. He grabbed the microphone and challenged the Great Kojika to put his Americas title on the line—against his hard-earned \$10,000. Kojika figured Rocky would be easy pickings after his hard victory, and so agreed, but there was no stopping “The Soulman” that night. He quickly pinned Kojika to win the title, capping on one of the greatest individual performances in wrestling history. What a night! □

THE Wrestler



Steve Williams

NWA

World Champion:

RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

1—DUSTY RHODES

302, Austin, TX

2—LEX LUGER

268, Chicago, IL

3—NIKITA KOLOFF

275, Moscow, Russia

4—RONNIE GARVIN

231, Montreal, Quebec

5—BARRY WINDHAM

236, Sweetwater, TX

6—TULLY BLANCHARD

235, San Antonio, TX

7—STING

270, parts unknown

8—MIKE ROTUNDO

245, Syracuse, NY

9—TERRY TAYLOR

225, Vero Beach, FL

10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

248, Pittsburgh, PA

AWA

World Champion:

TITLE VACANT

most recently held by Curt Hennig

1—CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

2—GREG GAGNE

220, Robbinsdale, MN

3—WAHOO McDALE

260, Midland, TX

4—JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

5—TOMMY RICH

242, Hendersonville, TN

6—JERRY BLACKWELL

474, Stone Mountain, GA

7—ADRIAN ADONIS

312, New York, NY

8—KEVIN KELLY

271, Oakland, CA

9—DICK SLATER

235, Albany, NY

10—D.J. PETERSON

245, St. Joseph, MO

WWF

World Champion:

HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

1—THE HONKY TONK MAN

255, Memphis, TN

2—RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

3—TED DIBIASE

247, Omaha, NB

4—BAM BAM BIGELOW

368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

5—ONE MAN GANG

468, Chicago, IL

6—KILLER KHAN

275, Mongolia

7—RICK RUDE

246, Robbinsdale, MN

8—JAKE ROBERTS

246, Stone Mountain, GA

9—HACKSAW DUGGAN

280, Glens Falls, NY

10—KING KONG BUNDY

446, Atlantic City, NJ

UWF

UWF Champion:

STEVE WILLIAMS

265, Norman, OK

1—BARRY WINDHAM

236, Sweetwater, TX

2—TERRY TAYLOR

225, Vero Beach, FL

3—LARRY ZBYSZKO

248, Pittsburgh, PA

4—BLACK BART

261, Pampa, TX

5—STING

270, parts unknown

6—EDDIE GILBERT

222, Lexington, TN

7—BIG BUBBA ROGERS

348, Louisville, KY

8—RON SIMMONS

260, Perry, GA

9—RICK STEINER

248, Detroit, MI

10—SHANE DOUGLAS

223, Pittsburgh, PA

TOP 10

1 HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion

2 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion

3 NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
NWA/UWF TV champion

4 RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 1 contender to WWF I-C title

5 DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion

6 STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK
UWF heavyweight champion

7 BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX
Western States champion

8 CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
No. 1 contender AWA World title

9 RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
No. 1 contender: NWA World title

10 AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL
World Class heavyweight champion

TAG TEAMS

1 THE ROAD WARRIORS
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title

2 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions

3 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA
Combined weight: 489 pounds
WWF World tag team champions

4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions

5 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

6 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title

7 THE ISLANDERS
Combined weight: 472 pounds
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title

8 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title

9 THE SHEEPHERDERS
Combined weight: 542 pounds
UWF tag team champions

10 DENNIS CONDRAY & RANDY ROSE
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

MOST HATED

For period ended November 27, 1987

1	HULK HOGAN 302, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
2	RANDY SAVAGE 245, Sarasota, FL Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3	DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4	NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
5	BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
6	JAKE ROBERTS 246, Stone Mountain, GA Last month: unrated
7	STING 270, parts unknown Last month: unrated
8	CHRIS ADAMS 228, Stratford, England Last month: unrated
9	STEVE WILLIAMS 265, Norman, OK Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
10	JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

1	THE HONKY TONK MAN 255, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2	RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
3	LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
4	TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5	TED DIBIASE 247, Omaha, NB Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
6	LARRY ZBYSZKO 248, Pittsburgh, PA Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
7	TERRY TAYLOR 225, Vero Beach, FL Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
8	CURT HENNIG 235, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
9	KING KONG BUNDY 446, Atlantic City, NJ Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
10	AL PEREZ 238, Tampa, FL Last month: unrated

1	WORLD CHAMP. <i>U.S. Champion:</i> DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX
2	LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL
3	NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia
4	RONNIE GARVIN 231, Montreal, Quebec
5	TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
6	ARN ANDERSON 249, Minneapolis, MN
7	KEVIN SULLIVAN 252, Boston, MA
8	JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
9	MIGHTY WILBUR 340, Heyward, CA
10	RON SIMMONS 260, Perry, GA
	IVAN KOLOFF 240, Moscow, Russia

1	WORLD CLASS <i>World Class Champion:</i> AL PEREZ 238, Tampa, FL
2	KEVIN VON ERICH 235, Denton, TX
3	MATT BORNE 235, Portland, OR
4	CHRIS ADAMS 228, Stratford, England
5	KERRY VON ERICH 260, Denton, TX
6	BRIAN ADIAS 238, Denton, TX
7	TONY ATLAS 247, Roanoke, VA
8	TED ARCIDI 300, Boston, MA
9	SHAUN SIMPSON 200, Johannesburg, South Africa
10	ERIC EMBRY 225, Lexington, KY
	THE IRON SHEIK 262, Teheran, Iran

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:

OWEN HART

223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 3—CPL. KIRCHNER**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
- 4—MAKIAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 5—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 6—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 7—HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 8—PHIL LaFLEUR**
245, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 10—ZODIAK**
230, Salem, MA

MID-SOUTHERN

AWA Southern Champion:

JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 2—BOBBY JAGGERS**
275, Dunlap, KS
- 3—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 5—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 6—STEVE KERN**
238, Tampa, FL
- 7—CARL FERGIE**
230, Memphis, TN
- 8—AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 9—HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:

DUTCH MANTEL

224, Oil Trough, TX

- 1—WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 2—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 3—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 4—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 5—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 6—SCOTT ARMSTRONG**
225, Marietta, GA
- 7—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 8—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—JONATHAN BOYD**
240, New Zealand
- 10—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL

CALIFORNIA

ACCW Champion:

JACK ARMSTRONG

235, Hollywood, CA

- 1—PETER MAIVIA JR.**
215, Western Samoa
- 2—KAMALAMALA**
480, parts unknown
- 3—MERCENARY I**
242, parts unknown
- 4—PROF. TANAKA**
265, Tokyo, Japan
- 5—JAY STRONGBOW JR.**
223, Pawhuska, OK
- 6—GOLIATH**
235, Mexico City, Mexico
- 7—TONY ROCCO**
230, Rome, Italy
- 8—MERCENARY II**
240, parts unknown
- 9—VICTOR RIVERA**
242, Philadelphia, PA
- 10—MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Somebody out there doesn't like us. Or at least doesn't agree with us. We've been getting a lot of mail lately, and not much of it's been favorable.

Let's start things off with a letter from Christopher McClothlin of Radford, Virginia. "When the new ratings format was adopted, it was stated that certain titleholders would receive an automatic number-one rating in their respective areas. For example, the WWF Intercontinental champion," writes Christopher. "However, as of the September 30 ratings period, the United States, World Class Texas, AWA International, and Southeastern champions are all ranked number two. Has the old policy been changed or dropped entirely? In my opinion, those titleholders deserve an automatic number-one rating. If a wrestler holding one of the aforementioned titles isn't receiving the majority of shots at the area's major title, it is solely because of the promoter's reluctance to sign a match between two fan favorites or two rulebreakers. Your ratings should not diminish those titles because of that unfortunate bias."

"Secondly, I have a suggestion that would greatly improve the quality of the ratings. The 'Most Popular' and 'Most Hated' categories should be dropped because they are meaningless. It doesn't matter how popular or hated a wrestler is. Hulk Hogan and George Steele are both loved while Ric Flair and Danny Davis are hated, but look at the difference in their levels of success. Flair and other 'hated' wrestlers enjoy healthy fan followings. The ratings are also far too biased toward the NWA and WWF, and they receive far too much coverage as it is. Dropping those categories would open up space that could be used to rate two smaller promotions. Some of the best wrestling today takes place in smaller organizations. Rating those areas would show a much better picture of what's going on in the sport."

We plead guilty on rating Flair number one over Lex Luger in the NWA ratings for the January issue of *The Wrestler*. Many other readers pointed out the same thing, and it was nothing but a mistake. The U.S. champion and the Intercontinental champion do receive respective automatic number-one rankings in the NWA and WWF. Other titles that receive automatic number-one rankings are: Western States (UWF), AWA International (Mid-Southern), and British Commonwealth (Stampede). Our mistake was rectified in the February 1988 issue.

Now on to more letters. "It's always fascinating to me how your magazine always manages to get in a little dig at Hulk Hogan no matter what," writes Mike Facciani of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "Even though you rated 'The Hulkster' number one this month [January 1988], it seems to be with some reluctance, and I don't understand it."

"What the heck do you mean you should 'start the ratings at

number two this month because nobody deserves to be number one?' Hogan damn well deserves it, because whether you like it or not, he is the greatest wrestler in the sport! Face it, nobody can beat him, not Andre the Giant, Flair, Randy Savage, Luger, or anyone else you can name."

"Besides, it's far more impressive for a champion to win a title and keep it than it is to lose a title and regain it like Flair has done. Hogan stands so far above everyone else in wrestling I don't know how you could even consider someone else for the top spot in the Top 10. But the way your crazy ratings go sometimes, and considering your partiality toward the NWA, I'm surprised you didn't rank Flair number one even without the World title."

Strong words, but Mike wasn't in the minority. "When you guys make up the ratings," writes Earle Brown of Middletown, New York, "look at the way titles change hands and stop giving top billing to a guy who cheats, uses technicalities, and needs the help of three or four other wrestlers to subdue opponents or future opponents. Hulk Hogan doesn't use any of these means."

"Please give the fans your reasoning for your obvious bias against Hulk Hogan and favoritism toward Flair," writes Phil Ewan of Newburgh, New York. "Your magazine seems to totally disregard Flair's tarnished victories and the dishonor he brings to his title defenses. We need an explanation from you. What lock does Flair have on you guys? Does he own part of the magazines? Maybe he slips you guys some good ol' cash! The Hogan fans want an explanation."

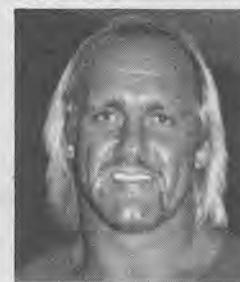
You asked for an explanation, so you'll get it. The Hogan fans can be awfully blind sometimes. They'll disregard that he defends the belt only three or four times a month. Flair has held the NWA World title for most of the past six years. He defends the belt more times in one month than Hogan does in several. And although Flair has a tendency to cheat, he's undoubtedly a fine scientific wrestler, perhaps the finest today—don't discount the "inherent skill" factor in the ratings criteria.

California, here we come! This month, we go to the left coast for our revolving ratings category. The All-Star California Championship Wrestling Federation has an exciting mixture of veterans and rising young stars. The heavyweight champion is "Wildman" Jack Armstrong. The tag champs are young sensation Peter Maivia Jr. and former WWF World tag champ (and *The Wrestler* "X-Ray" panelist) Prof. Toru Tanaka.

Dare we ask for more mail after all the things you've been saying about us? Actually, we have no choice. *The Wrestler* is, after all, your magazine (not Slick Ric's). The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □



George Steele



Hulk Hogan



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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

and I wouldn't wish it upon my worst enemy. But even though he had blinded me, I was greatly saddened when he died. Misguided as he was, Gino was a tremendous athlete. I respected his ability even when I didn't agree with him."

Q: "My question is for Sean Royal of The New Breed: Why don't you and Chris Champion go after the NWA World tag team belts instead of getting involved in a feud with The Midnight Express? I'm positive you could win the belts, 2002 style!"—Daniel Greenwood, Philadelphia

A: "We didn't start this feud," Royal said, "Jim Cornette did. After we refused to accept his management, he flew into a frenzy and vowed to eliminate us from the sport. Accordingly, we had no choice but to fight back. So, in that sense, it is not a senseless feud. Plus, if Chris and I come out the winners, we will be the U.S. tag team champions, and in the year 2002, the U.S. tag titles held by The New Breed are far more valuable than World tag belts held by The Four Horsemen. We match up very well against the Express. I'm positive that we'll defeat them in the long run and that we'll win those belts, although we have concerns that are far more significant."

Q: "My question is for Adrian Adonis: Considering that you had the AWA World tag team title with Jesse Ventura, and the WWF tag title with Dick Murdoch, would you go after the AWA tag title again? If so, who would you choose as your partner?"—Kevin Seabrook, White Plains, NY

A: "Partners are nothing but trouble," Adonis asserted. "When two guys both want to do something their own way, there's going to be problems. In other words, I have no interest in the tag team title at

this time. My first order of business is to get rid of that filthy redneck Tommy Rich. After that is accomplished—which it certainly will be—I might go after that fat Indian Wahoo McDaniels. Then maybe I'll challenge Curt Hennig for the World title. Yes, that sounds like a good schedule."

Q: "My question is for Sgt. Slaughter: Are you ever going to return to the WWF? What is your opinion of Hulk Hogan?"—Mike Acquisto, Stockton, CA

A: "I would welcome the opportunity to wrestle anywhere in the world," Sgt. Slaughter said, "but, unfortunately, certain contractual matters prevent me from returning to the WWF. It's a shame, because I know there would be some great matches between me and Hogan.



Sgt. Slaughter, always fighting for America, says he would like to wrestle Hulk Hogan someday.

He is one of the best in the world, but he's never put that belt on the line against 'The Sarge.' There are also a lot of anti-American maggots in that federation that I'd like to get rid of, like that Russian slime Boris Zukhov who once cost me the NWA World title. I hear that he and Nikolai Volkoff have formed a team called The Bolsheviks. Well, they're sorely mistaken if they think they're gonna start a Russian Revolution on these shores." □

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DEMOLITION

(Continued from page 31)



Ax bearhugs B. Brian Blair. After a sluggish start, Demolition has scored several victories over The Killer Bees.

look at the duo:

"They may be one of the most improved tag teams of the year," Saks observes. "Their teamwork used to be incredibly shabby. Now they're obliterating opponents. They still have a lot of trouble against experienced foes, but the rookie teams they face on TV are falling away pretty fast; it didn't always used to be that way."

The fans seem to agree.

"At first, Ax and Smash were pretty hesitant in the ring, and their teamwork left a lot to be desired," wrote Phillip Bruno of New York. "If it wasn't for Fuji's constant interference, they might have been buried before they could get out of the starting gate. That, plus the fact that the fans were always riding them, made me think that their days were numbered—maybe they'd end up like The Machines. But Ax and Smash showed a lot of mental toughness in those first few months. They took it one night at a time and kept improving as a team."

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Smash slams Billy Jack Haynes, who went after Demolition after they viciously double-teamed his cousin Brady Boone.

Indeed, most of the mail received at the offices of *The Wrestler* agrees with Bruno. "Starting to come into their own," writes Melissa Edison of Philadelphia. "Some of their finishing maneuvers are pretty impressive," says Roger Deacon of Boston. Several fans even followed Saks' line of thought and suggested a "Most Improved Tag Team" category for next year's *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* year-end fan ballot—and cited Demolition as the team who would have won for '87.

Demolition's wrestling resume has become steadily more impressive. They've easily beaten another up-and-coming tag team, Paul Roma and Jim Powers. They've taken everything the Rougeau brothers could throw at them, came back, and gained pinfall victories with split-second timing. They've beaten The Killer Bees and have taken The British Bulldogs to several double-disqualifications.

Ax and Smash are currently feuding with Ken Patera and Billy (Continued on page 52)

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PWI
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DEMOLITION

(Continued from page 51)



Demolition effectively vanquishes a lesser opponent (left), but needs a lot more effort against Ken Patera (above).

Jack Haynes after a vicious "demolition" of Haynes' cousin Brady Boone. Patera and Haynes may be two of the strongest men in the sport, but Demolition has been handling themselves quite well as the feud gathers force.

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"I think this feud with Haynes and Patera is a major part of Fuji's plan, to toughen them up for an eventual title match with Strike Force," Saks added. "I'm not saying it's going to happen overnight, but I'm not ruling it out. You know, Demolition does remind me of a very successful tag team."

"No, not the Road Warriors," Saks continued. "But with their improving combination of power, speed, science, and managing, Ax and Smash remind me more of The Hart Foundation."

As for the inevitable comparisons with The Road Warriors, they seem to be fading away. Demolition has weathered the storm of criticism that came with their arrival on the WWF tag team scene, and they're zeroing in on Strike force, the WWF World tag team champions. Indeed, if they succeed in their war with Haynes and Patera, a series of title matches with Rick Martel and Tito Santana may be in the offing.

It's no longer crazy to say that Demolition is "a solid team with championship potential." With each passing month, Demolition looks to be less of an imitation and more of a real team.

And that's the sincerest form of flattery of all. □

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

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JULY 1985

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STEVE WILLIAMS

(Continued from page 33)

guy who has the drive to really go for it."

Windham's assessment of the situation is correct. In interviews, Williams talks about the untapped greatness of the UWF, and also about the prize of the NWA World belt.

But Williams has been lacking in opportunities: opportunities to face *all* the top UWF stars, and opportunities to wrestle for the NWA World belt.



By denying him these opportunities, the UWF risks losing their biggest star—forever.

"I'm not saying I'd walk," Williams says. "I just don't see why this thing can't be worked out. We're all reasonable people here."

How reasonable remains to be seen. UWF Commissioner John Ayers' position has not changed. "The intention of the UWF is not to merge with the NWA or to have a unification title bout," he says. "What would happen if Williams won the NWA title? Which belt would he defend? I think we all know the answer to that one."

The unwillingness of the UWF to relent on this issue makes little sense. Common sense dictates that the UWF ought to allow Wil-



Williams locks up with Eddie Gilbert (opposite page) and grabs him in a headlock (above). "Dr. Death" says he's getting too many matches against men like Gilbert and Black Bart at the expense of a match with the NWA champion. He'd like to see more bouts like the Starrcade matchup with Barry Windham.

liams to go for the World title. "It adds prestige to the organization," remarks wrestling announcer Gordon Solie. "Let's say Williams did win the NWA title. The UWF could then say, 'Look at Williams, he got his start in the UWF.' Wrestlers then perceive the UWF title as a springboard to the NWA World championship. That's an enviable position. You attract a lot of top talent that way."

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Missouri title assumed the aura of "springboard" to the NWA crown. "Suddenly," Solie recalls, "you had the best wrestlers in the world going to St. Louis to go after the belt. People you'd never expect to see there were there—David and Kerry Von Erich, Harley Race, Bob Backlund, Ken Patera, Ted DiBiase, Dusty Rhodes—even Ric Flair wrestled for it."

But the NWA title question may even be eclipsed by the UWF title defense situation. The UWF's wish to build itself into a major federation is being undermined by their myopic rules and regulations. In order for a federation to grow, it

must offer its grapplers opportunity. Opportunity to expand their careers.

"I've defeated Black Bart more times than I can count," Williams says, "and frankly, it was like pulling teeth to get the Windham bout signed. Sure, I can get all the matches against Bart or Eddie Gilbert I want; they're good, but I've proven that I can beat them 10 times out of 10. There's new competition out there, and I want it. But I don't know if I want to spend all my time with papers and contracts and phone calls."

Steve Williams is a proud man, a professional who honors his obligations. But the constant chafing with the UWF is beginning to irritate him. Better to allow a man of Williams' caliber the freedom to explore his potential than risk losing him forever.

UWF Commissioner Ayers should be advised of this maxim: *What goes around comes around*. If Ayers wishes to retain Williams' friendship and loyalty—premium items in a fickle sport—he should change his tune. □

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PWI
March 1987

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

ing Matt Borne.

Brad and Bob Batten lost the Central States tag team belts to Porkchop Cash and Rick McCord

... The Cuban Assassin has arrived in the Central States area and is after Bulldog Brown's heavyweight title ... The new World Wrestling Alliance scheduled its title tournament for January 23. David Shultz and Sgt. Slaughter are among the wrestlers signed ... Victor Rivera announced his retirement from wrestling and hopes to become a manager ... Kamalamala (not to be confused with Kamala) is gunning for a shot at California Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion "Wildman" Jack Armstrong. Other top contenders are Goliath, Tony Rocco, Jay Strongbow Jr., and Peter Maivia Jr.

The Dream Team has split up! Greg Valentine and Dino Bravo



The Dream Team—Greg Valentine and Dino Bravo—have split up, but are still on good terms. Valentine will be managed by Jimmy Hart and Bravo will take Frenchy Martin as his manager. Johnny V's status is unknown at this time.

parted on good terms in order to pursue Hulk Hogan's WWF World title. Valentine immediately announced he is being managed by Jimmy Hart, while Bravo will be managed by Frenchy Martin. The status of Johnny V, former manager

of The Dream Team, is unknown.

Hogan, by the way, lost to **Ted DiBiase** by countout in Toronto. **King Kong Bundy** was at ringside and played an important part in the match. DiBiase dropkicked Hogan, who slammed into referee **John Bonnolo**. Hogan fell to the floor, was smashed by Bundy, and couldn't beat the 10-count. On the same card, **Randy Savage** and **The British Bulldogs** defeated **The Honky Tonk Man**, **Jimmy Hart**, and **Jim Neidhart**.

Jerry Lawler regained the AWA Southern belt from **Bobby Jaggers** on November 21 in Memphis. Jaggers came to the ring with his new manager, **Nat the Rat**, and cut Lawler open early in the match. The match ended when Nat handed his cane to Jaggers. When referee **Jerry Calhoun** tried to wrestle it away from Jaggers, Lawler snuck up from behind and rolled up Jaggers for the pin.

With Lawler defending the belt, former tag team partner **Bill Dundee** was forced to choose a new partner. His choice: **Austin Idol**, who engaged in a famous feud with Dundee and Lawler last year. Lawler tried to warn Dundee against taking him as a partner, but Idol swears he will remain loyal. Idol and Dundee took on **Hector Guerrero** and **Manny Fernandez** on November 22; both teams were disqualified for fighting outside the ring.

The WWC's North American tag team title has been eliminated. The WWC took the belts away from **The Hunters** in order to create the Caribbean tag team championship. A tournament for the title was held on November 7 in Guayanabo, Puerto Rico. In the final, **Samoans Samu** and **Fatu** beat **The Invaders** for the belts.

Mark Miller, lead singer of the country/western group **Sawyer Brown** and a friend of **Jerry Lawler's**, is bringing two wrestlers—6'6", 225-pound identical twins—to the Mid-Southern area for a tryout . . . **Mongolian Stomper**,



Jerry "The King" Lawler receives a regal bearing. Lawler defeated Bobby Jaggers to regain the AWA Southern title, but is disappointed that his old partner, Bill Dundee, has chosen Austin Idol as his tag team partner. Lawler feuded with Idol and Tommy Rich for months.

Superstar Bubba, and **Terry Gordy** are negotiating with Continental Championship Wrestling officials. Gordy is also negotiating a return to World Class . . . **The Southern Boys**, **Tracy Smothers** and **Steve Armstrong**, asked for a shot at Continental tag champs **Robert Fuller** and **Jimmy Golden**.

Bam Bam Bigelow was arrested by New Jersey state police on November 3 for possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. Bigelow pleaded innocent to the charges in Asbury Park Municipal Court. New Jersey state trooper **Jerry Barbato** arrested Bigelow after stopping his vehicle in Asbury Park and finding the drug, according to a state police spokesman.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO THOSE WHO ENTERED THE WRESTLING DREAM CRUISE CONTEST: Due to holiday deadlines, the name of the winner of the dream cruise, scheduled to be published in this issue, will be announced next month. The winner will be notified earlier by phone. □

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STAMPEDE WRESTLING

(Continued from page 41)



Jerry Morrow, who frequently teams up with Makian Singh, chokes Ben Doon McDonald. Morrow and Singh have feuded with Pillman and Bruce Hart with the International tag team title usually on the line.

mer Olympic wrestler now employs a high-flying scientific style in his war against Karachi Vice.

Zodiac. A masked grappler who claims to be from hell and to possess the power of the solar system, he has managed to guide Jason the Terrible to new heights of destruction. Certainly his ring tactics are hellish: Despite being a skilled scientific wrestler, he has been accused of using a loaded mask.

Jerry Morrow. A falling-out with tag team partner Johnny Smith (the younger brother of British Bulldog Davey Boy Smith) led to his being accepted into Karachi Vice. His combination of aerial tactics and vicious brawling makes for a very unorthodox but exciting style. His

best maneuver is the flying body press off the ropes.

Steve DiSalvo. Also known as Steve Strong, this hated muscular man followed archrival Phil Lafleur to Stampede, where their feud continues. His finishing maneuvers include the over-the-shoulder back-breaker and the bearhug.

Other notables. Fans will remember Cpl. Kirchner who recently came to Stampede to help battle Karachi Vice . . . **Johnny Smith** reminds everyone of his brother Davey Boy and is picking up valuable experience . . . **Chris Benoit**, former co-holder of the International tag team title, is another rising scientific star . . . **Phil Lafleur**, a 250-pound former bodybuilder and "Mr. Eastern Canada," adds to his considerable strength by performing breathtaking aerial moves . . . **Bad News Allen** is a frequent—and feared—visitor to the area. □

Wrestling

September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keim.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valiant, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humpertink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorf.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steambat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorf, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorf, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbysko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Orndorff. Until he beats "Mr. Wonderful," he won't face Hogan. In your November 1987 story, "Can Hercules Hernandez Shield Bobby Heenan From Ken Patera?" it was mentioned that Rude is too small for Patera. If he's too small for Patera, he's too small for Hogan.

Ted DiBiase is a slimeball. Every fan is hoping for his destruction. If it does happen, I hope Hogan does it. He will prove that money can't buy a world championship. His money will not stop Hulkamania and he will be planted into the arena floor. What a sight that will be!

As for Hulk's allies, it's probable he still doesn't trust Orndorff. Patera is a changed man; why everyone picks him to turn against "The Hulkster" is unknown to me.

However, Hulk and Randy Savage have formed The Megapowers. Will Jesse Ventura return to the ring to annihilate the "Macho Man"? Definitely. Seeing his "favorite wrestler" side by side with Hogan will drive Jesse insane. Hulk's greatest foe is now his greatest ally. Jesse can't handle it.

ROBERT HUSE
Georgetown, MA

POOR MISSY

In response to a letter in the November 1987 issue ("Thumbs Up, Missy"), I am glad Missy Hyatt left the WWF for whatever reason. She could very well be a really nice person. The only problem is that when she opens her mouth she sounds illiterate. Some of her statements are really dumb. I haven't figured out if this is an act on her part or if she is for real.

Because of programming schedules in the area I live, I only have to see her one day a week. I do miss seeing more of the NWA and UWF, but I don't miss Ms. Missy Hyatt. Her comments regarding Eddie Gilbert and Terry Taylor are really senseless

(Continued on page 62)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 60)

most of the time. She should also continue to curl her hair. She really doesn't look good otherwise.

MICHELE BARRY
Ypsilanti, MI

THREE TIMES A CHAMP

Pedro Morales is the only man in the WWF who has held all three major titles, so why doesn't anybody recognize him as an all-time great? He

I would also like to thank the wrestlers who have stayed with CCW through thick and thin. My thanks to: Tom Pritchard, Robert Fuller, Jimmy Golden, Nightmare Dan Davis, and Doug Furnas.

TINA WOLFENBARGER
Maynardville, TN

COME BACK, RIP

An open letter to Rip "The Crippler" Oliver:



Pedro Morales rolls up Ernie Ladd for the pin. Reader Jose Gonzalez writes that Morales should receive more recognition because he's the only man to have won all three WWF championships (World, Intercontinental, and World tag team).

has beaten everyone who is anyone. So can you please do an article on Pedro Morales?

JOSE GONZALEZ
Brooklyn, NY

THANKS, GUYS

Since I started watching Continental Championship Wrestling, a lot of wrestlers have left the area. They include: Kris Von Colt, Jerry Stubbs, Adrian Street and Miss Linda, Nightmare Ken Wayne, Scott Casey, and Buddy Landell. Sometimes I wonder if they will ever come back to this area. Especially Buddy Landell, who has always been and always will be my favorite wrestler in or out of the Continental area.

Rip, you think the WWF is the best move you have ever made, don't you? Well, you're wrong. It's the biggest mistake of your life. They're teaming you up with scum like Barry Horowitz and Brian Costello. I think your reputation as "The Crippler" is dead.

I hope you'll listen to me: Get out while you still have your pride. For all you know, they might call you "The Court Jester" and team you up with Harley "The Queen" Race. The Northwest is getting boring really fast since you left. Sure, The Grappler's here, but he doesn't have the flair you do. Please reconsider it.

ED THOMAS
Hillsboro, OR □

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

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Dutch Mantel pinned Wendell Cooley in the final of a one-night tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee, to determine the Continental champion.

legs, Tom Pritchard was defeated by Jonathan Boyd, while Jimmy Golden advanced by countout over Doug Furnas. Although Ron Fuller gained a pinfall over Dutch Mantel, the referee reversed the decision after finding an object in Fuller's boot that had been placed there by Robert Fuller. Wendell Cooley, the last man to hold the title, captured a quick pin over Robert Fuller.

In the opening match of the quarterfinals, Cooley and Davis, who days earlier had settled their differences after weeks of battles, wrestled to a draw. As the referee was about to let the fans decide the winner, Cooley sacrificed his chance for the title and told Davis to accept the win. Davis instead bowed out of the tournament and allowed Cooley to advance. Also in the quarterfinals, Mantel defeated Scott Armstrong, and Golden defeated Smothers. Pritchard gained some revenge against

Boyd, holding his legs down while Steve Armstrong gained the pinfall.

The semifinals saw Golden eliminated by Cooley. Steve Armstrong lost by disqualification to Mantel after accidentally throwing him over the top rope. Armstrong was joined by Smothers, his tag team partner in The Southern Boys, in a brawl with Mantel, Golden, and Ron Fuller after the match. Fuller's leg was injured by Armstrong.

Golden accompanied Mantel to the ring in the final match against Cooley, who was joined at ringside by Ron Fuller. Both men were able to gain the advantage several times during the match. With Golden and Fuller battling outside the ring, Cooley used his bulldog maneuver and covered Mantel for the pin. The referee, however, had been knocked down in an earlier scuffle. As Cooley got to his feet to assist the referee, Robert Fuller ran into the ring and clotheslined Cooley. When the referee was able to return to action, Mantel was on top of Cooley. A three-count later, Mantel was declared the new Continental champion.

Cornwall, Ontario (Correspondent—Mark Telewiak): The main event here was a bout between Superstar Graham and Butch Reed. The two locked up in a test of strength and then went to the floor, where Reed hit Graham over the head with a chair, then choked him with it. Hillbilly Jim came to ringside and helped Graham to his feet. Reed was distracted by Jim and Graham got a quick three-count.

In other bouts: Killer Khan beat Hillbilly Jim . . . Magnificent Muraco defeated Bob Orton Jr. . . . Paul Roma & Jim Powers beat The Shadows . . . Gino Brito defeated Bob Dellaserra . . . Rocky Dellaserra beat Louis Lafrance. □

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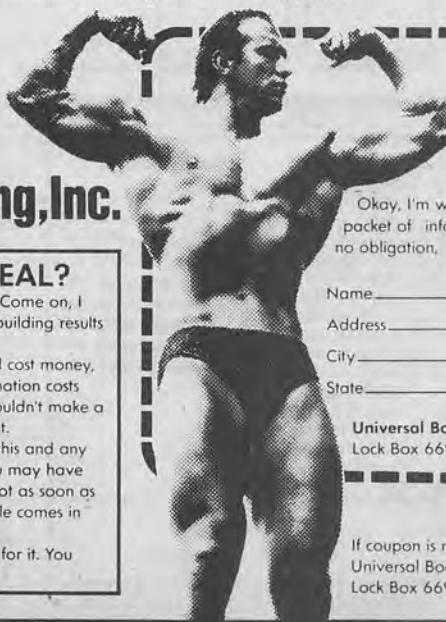
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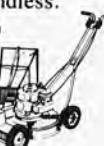


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